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WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, ARTS AND HUMANITIES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDREDTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

S.J. Res. 26

TO AUTHORIZE AND REQUEST THE PRESIDENT TO CALL A WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES TO BE HELD NOT LATER THAN 1989, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

APRIL 3, 1987

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WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1987

U.S. Senate,
Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities,
Committee on Labor and Human Resources,
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:20 a.m., in room SD-430, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Senator Robert T. Stafford, presiding.

Present: Senators Stafford and Hatch.

Senator Stafford. The Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities will please come to order.

At the outset, without objection, I will place in the record a statement of the Chairman of this Subcommittee, Senator Pell. Senator Pell is now the senior member of the firm of "Pell and Stafford" that for the six previous years was the firm of "Stafford and Pell" and earlier than that, was the firm again of "Pell and Stafford". As I am sure you will understand, Senator Pell has been kept on the Floor of the Senate because he is also Chairman of our Foreign Relations Committee, and is now involved in debates and votes, which is keeping him there; otherwise he would be here.

[The prepared statement of Senator Pell follows:]

Prepared Statement of Senator Claiborne Pell

This hearing of the Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities will come to order.

It gives me great pleasure today to convene a hearing on a legislative proposal to establish a White House Conference on Library and Information Services. I introduced Senate Joint Resolution 26 on January 21st of this year and, to date, 35 Senators have cosponsored this legislation. A companion bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman William Ford.

The last such White House Conference occurred in 1979 and few will dispute how successful it was in focusing national attention on library needs and on building broader public support for improved library services. One significant benefit resulting from that Conference was that LSCA Title III funds were increased by 140%—bringing important additional program monies to the states.

It is time to now to take another in-depth look in a national forum at a range of issues that are of critical importance to the well-being of our library community. Three themes have already been targeted for this Conference: library services for literacy, productivity and democracy, and I would encourage additional focal points to emerge before plans are complete.

In view of our present budget crisis, this White House Conference may not be held in 1989 as the current legislation proposes. We must recall that I first discussed the 1979 Conference as far back as 1972 and it was signed into law by President Ford in 1974—still three years before an appropriation was made and the first state-level conferences got under way. So if more time is needed to organize a meaningful conference, I want to be sure the flexibility is there.

Our task at hand is to authorize this Conference so that the thinking and planning processes can begin in earnest. We must also look seriously at what type of Conference will work best today. In all likelihood, it will be structured very differently from the 1979 Conference—leaner and more focused. If some states do not wish to hold their own state-based meetings owing to scarce funds, we want to give them that option and, at the same time, encourage them to participate in perhaps new and creative ways.

Finally I want to address the issue of cost which has been of rightful concern. If the 1979 Conference were to be replicated in 1989 the total dollar cost has been alleged to be $15 million. It is very unlikely, however, that this earlier Conference will be replicated. What with ten years of technological advances coupled with the flexibility offered by optional state conferences, I would hope that this figure could in fact be reduced. Whatever the ultimate cost, however, I am committed to limiting the federal contribution to $5 million. The future health and vitality of our libraries is certainly worth this investment. As we saw with the last Conference, it took over 4 years to secure an appropriation, but once in hand a meaningful and worthwhile Conference resulted. This again is my aim.

I want to extend a warm welcome to all of our witnesses today and to particularly thank Dr. Boorstin for coming. We all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude for the superior leadership he has provided as Librarian of Congress and for the support he has given to the cause of libraries everywhere. I welcome your testimony.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR STAFFORD

Senator STAFFORD. I have a very brief opening statement, and following that, the Ranking Member of the Full Committee has honored us with his presence this morning, and I will turn to him for whatever statement he has.

I would like to thank Senator Pell for scheduling today's hearing on S.J. Res. 26, because it will allow everyone interested in Federal library programs the opportunity to discuss this legislation in detail.

I supported and attended the White House Conference on Libraries held back in 1979. Furthermore, I have always supported appropriations for legislation which assists State library programs as well as research libraries.

My opposition to S.J. Res. 26 authorizing a second White House Conference on Libraries is by no means a vote against libraries. I have several concerns about this legislation which are clearly outlined in the testimony Ms. Patricia Klinck, the Vermont State Librarian, will present to you later this morning.

In summary, at a time when budget deficits are on everyone's minds, it makes little sense to this Senator to spend Federal funds on a White House event at the expense of funding for books and services.

I look forward to hearing from all of today's witnesses and thank them all for coming here today, and apologize for our return to winter weather here in Washington.

I will say that whatever decision this Subcommittee makes eventually on this question, I will support it.

Now I am very happy to recognize Senator Hatch, the Ranking Minority Member of our Full Committee.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR HATCH

Senator HATCH. Thank you, Senator Stafford. I am pleased that you and Senator Pell are holding the hearing this morning on the issues which would be addressed by a second White House Conference on Library and Information Services, and that is to be held in 1989.

As you know, I was as supporter of the resolution in the 99th Congress, and I am a cosponsor this year of S.J. Res. 26, urging that such a Conference be held.

At a time when we are all thinking about improving America's competitiveness in the world scene and acknowledging the role that education must play in improving our competitive capabilities, a Conference on Library and Information Services is, in my opinion, right on-target. We must utilize technological developments to provide information and educational services more quickly and fully to all of our citizens in both urban and rural areas.

Now, I believe that the proposed Conference will further that goal, I think just as the first Conference on Library and Information Services held ten years ago was very productive.

I am particularly pleased that Dr. Glen R. Wilde, our own Associate Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at the Utah State University, is here as a witness today. His expertise in this field is widely recognized, and I extend a special welcome to him as well as all of the other witnesses, and I look forward—I cannot be here other than to make this statement because I have other pressing conflicts—but I look forward to reading his testimony along with that of the other scheduled witnesses today.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate again you holding this hearing. I commend Senator Pell for his sponsorship of S.J. Res. 26, and I appreciate both of your appreciation for the educational needs of our country in this matter. I do not think we could have two better, more dedicated people in the field of education than Senators Pell and Stafford, with whom I have worked for the last ten years, so I really have deep feelings toward both of them, and I shall do all I can to assist both of you in passing this resolution and ensuring that the proposed White House Conference on Library and Information Services becomes a reality.

So again I want to thank you for holding this hearing. You have excellent witnesses, and I look forward to participating from this time on and into the future.

Thank you.

Senator **Stafford**. Thank you very much, Senator Hatch.

The first witness this morning will be Dr. Daniel J. Boorstin, the Librarian of Congress. And I cannot resist saying in introducing Dr. Boorstin that I remember meeting him under circumstances which he may not recall. Years ago at an event over in the Library building, you and I met, and I had the effrontery at that time—this was a good many years ago—to ask you what you were doing. And after some pause and looking me up and down a minute or two, you said, "I am your librarian." So I have never forgotten that occasion. [Laughter.]

Senator **Hatch**. Well, I might add that if more Members of Congress would ask what is going on, we would all be better off.

Senator **Stafford**. Well, I am very glad to welcome you here, Dr. Boorstin. We recognize your very distinguished service to this country and to Congress as our Librarian.

Senator **Hatch**. I also welcome you, Doctor. I have very high regard for you, as you know. We have been friends for a number of years. And we appreciate the work that you do.

You have got to forgive me for having to leave, though.

STATEMENT OF DR. DANIEL J. BOORSTIN, LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, WASHINGTON, DC, ACCOMPANIED BY ADOREEN McCORMICK, LEGISLATIVE LIAISON OFFICER

Dr. BOORSTIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Senator Hatch.

I would like to introduce my colleague, Adoreen McCormick.

I would like to speak concerning S.J.Resolution 26, a Joint Resolution to authorize the President to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services. I am here this morning, Mr. Chairman, to voice some cautions and to offer some suggestions on how such a conference may best serve our urgent national cultural needs.

When any group of professionals meets, they are understandably tempted to talk to one another and to emphasize the latest problems of their profession rather than the interests of the public for whom they exist.

Librarians, whose professional organization, the American Library Association came into existence in 1876, only a little over a century ago, have a long, proverbial and honorable tradition. They have been servants of civilization, agents of literacy, counselors of the young, and helpers of all who would educate themselves.

But the swift progress of American technology, especially library and information technology, in which the Library of Congress has played a leading role, has itself created new problems. It is perhaps no accident that the spectacular advance and popularity of information technology has been accompanied by a lapse of literacy and a decline in the disposition to read books among several segments of our population.

A national study by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress at the instruction of the Congress, produced a report entitled Books in our Future, issued by the Joint Committee on the Library in 1984. This report collected the disturbing evidence of the prevalence of illiteracy, the inability to read, and alliteracy, the reluctance or unwillingness to read.

The national survey of reading habits by the Book Industry Study Group released in 1983 revealed that 44 percent of adult Americans who could read had not read a book in the preceding six months. Even more alarming, among Americans under 21 years of age who could read, it was found that those who had read a book in the previous year declined from 75 percent in 1978 to 62 percent in 1983.

Especially discouraging, the report of 1983 found that among those over 65 years of age, only 29 percent had read a book within the previous six months.

The surveys did confirm, however, that the reading of books is greatest among children whose parents read books.

The survey by the Department of Education, A Nation at Risk, in 1983, found that the nation has at least 23 million adults who are functionally illiterate.

Mr. Chairman, we must not forget Thomas Jefferson's warning that, "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be." The printed book, our most ancient liberating technology, still challenges our energies and ingenuity if we are to reap its democratizing benefits. The statistics I have just cited show how far we still have to go.

Yet the lengthy preamble and the lengthy text of the bill you are now considering mentions the word "literacy" only once and does not even contain the word "book" at all.

When the last White House Conference on Library and Information Services met in 1979, the Conference did not emphasize books and reading and the problems of illiteracy, but instead focused sharply on the new technologies of information storage and retrieval, and the needs of special constituencies.

At the final session, I seized the opportunity to alert librarians and others to the dangers of allowing these new technologies to distract us from the unfulfilled opportunities of the technologies of the book. I reminded the conference of the crucial distinction between knowledge—the special realm of the book—and information—the special realm of the media and the newer technologies of communication. And I warned of the perils of our becoming an information society rather than a knowledgeable society.

The newer technologies of information storage and retrieval have flourished and advanced spectacularly in the last decades. The Library of Congress, with the generous support of the Congress, has been a leader in this advance. We have pioneered in applying the computer to bibliographic control and exploring the benefits of the optical disk and the video disk. We have used innovative technology in developing ways to preserve the book, including mass deacidification.

In the Nation as a whole, we see the information industry flourishing—but our knowledge industries go begging. The percentage of U.S. dollars going to the information industry continues to grow while our educational system erodes and our major research institutions are in dire need.

A new White House Conference could conceivably give hope to our librarians, scholars, educators, and enlightened citizens. It could reawaken the Nation to the neglected priority of books and reading and all our knowledge institutions.

Librarians have been understandably tempted to become information technologists instead of guides to the world of knowledge and the delights of the literary arts. Fortunately, these need not be exclusive alternatives. But there is danger now that a misplaced emphasis will make them seem so.

This is a familiar American temptation, Mr. Chairman, to be so fascinated by the new technology that we do not see its perils. Delight in the new is one of the most appealing features of our American character—the continuing promise of this still-new-world.

A parable of our thinking on the frontiers of technology is the story, perhaps apocryphal, of Henry Ford's conversation with a friend when he was just beginning to put thousands of Model-T's on the road.

"Mr. Ford," the friend asked, "won't your speedy, noisy, horseless carriages make a lot of trouble, cause accidents, and create chaos by frightening all the horses?"

Henry Ford had a quick response. "Not at all, my friend. Everybody will have an automobile. There will not be any horses on the roads, and there will not be any problem."

Henry Ford could not imagine that with his horseless carriage, he was inventing a new problem, and all of us on the clogged highways know that this is a problem to which we have not yet found a solution.

There has never yet been a technology invented to solve a problem which did not itself become part of the problem. The computer technology and the microchip and the laser magic of storage and retrieval are not likely to be an exception. Let us beware.

There are some special reasons, too, why our library profession has become enchanted, even mesmerized, by the magic of the newer technology. Until recently, when women were still denied equal opportunities for fulfillment in other professions, they were perforce channelled into schoolteaching, nursing, and of course, librarianship. They were refused access to the mechanical, the engineering, and the high-tech professions. Movies still being replayed remind us of that stereotype—the unlipsticked librarian-lady, with her hair in a bun, acting the gentle samaritan to the young and the lonely in the community.

Computer technology, information technology, has offered a welcome opportunity to change this stereotype. Librarianship, even in small libraries, has become mechanized in new ways. The librarian's work, no longer imprisoned in an obsolete gentility, has found its bold new place on the honorific frontiers of science and technology.

Now in libraries, our information engineers, like any other technicians, have their own arcane vocabulary, and a respectably elaborate machinery, just as likely as any other to get out of order and to need expert attention.

Ironically, this new technology has become a symbol of the liberation and invigoration of library science.

This is not to deny that the computer technology can and does accomplish bibliographic miracles, offering magical guidance to scholar and scientist. The work of filing and cataloging is being purified of dehumanizing routine. Access to books and to bits of information in any conceivable category is available with astonishing speed. Once information or images have been put into the computer, onto the optical disk or the vide disk, the scholar has an Aladdin's lamp.

We at the Library of Congress have done everything in our power to apply these new technologies and spread the word of their uses for scholars and legislators and citizens.

But we must not allow ourselves to be dazzled by the prospects of the latest technology. Even if literacy ceases to be fashionable, the book has not become obsolete, and literacy remains the tonic of our democracy.

While our Nation, unlike others, has no national library system, we have the most effective and most comprehensive public libraries in the world. Our nation of readers, of self-made leaders, has been fostered by our 8,300 community public library systems. Their strength, like that of our public schools, has come from the grassroots, and they too have become a distinctively American tradition, created and enriched by the book-inspired vision of Andrew Carnegie, Julius Rosenwald, and thousands of other citizen-philanthropists. They have been nourished by the warm devotion and expertise of librarians. They are, of course, a byproduct of the technology of the printed word—aided by the increasing facilities of electric light and central heating and air-conditioning.

And in our machine-ridden society, the public library has been an asylum, an asylum from automation, from noise and from haste. "Literature is my utopia," said Helen Keller. "Here, I am not disenfranchised." The library is everybody's utopia, where, as Ezra Pound reminded us, we read the "news that stays news."

In the last few years, I have visited impressive new library buildings where, at the inauguration ceremonies, I am shown the latest electronic systems of storage and retrieval, and introduced to the designers of the system. But I often must ask, with embarrassment, to be shown the books. I begin to fear that our libraries, like our highways, are threatened by a technological traffic jam.

If there is to be a White House Conference on this crucial area of American life, it should be charged with keeping all our technologies in an effective and amiable alliance. The Congress ten years ago created the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress for precisely this purpose. The Congress has declared 1987 to be the Year of the Reader. For this, too, is the Bicentennial of our Constitution, which was conceived by men who read books, in the image of a knowledgeable citizenry.

The White House Conference, Mr. Chairman, in my opinion should be renamed a Conference on Literacy, Books, Libraries and Information Services. The Conference should aim to free us from our technological traffic jam. It should help us bring together all technologies—television, the computer, and the book—in the service of a more enlightened and more joyful, because more literate, America.

Senator **STAFFORD**. Thank you very much, Dr. Boorstin.

We really appreciate your coming here this morning and your statement. And again, I acknowledge your great service to this Nation and this Congress.

May I dare to address one question to you, and that is this. In the light of developments since 1979, and recognizing that the last Conference on Libraries here in Washington, if I am not mistaken, cost something on the order of $15 million, assuming but not deciding—because we might not have that much money available—but assuming that we found that another one would cost about the same, which represents more than 10 percent of all the moneys we are able to have for libraries in the Federal program, my basic question which I am wrestling with is, is it worthwhile to spend that much money on a Conference, or should we spend it on the libraries themselves?

Dr. **BOORSTIN**. Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the test of cost-effectiveness is not really applicable to the world of knowledge. As you know, the most valuable things in the world are not cost-effective, which includes children and love. I think that you have posed a question which cannot be answered, because the justification of libraries and of the growth of knowledge reside in the future, in the unfathomable future. I think we must have faith in the possibilities of that future to justify libraries at all and our whole system of education.

Senator **STAFFORD**. I thank you very much, sir, indeed.

Dr. BOORSTIN. Thank you.

Senator STAFFORD. Next will be a panel consisting of Mr. Charles Benton, Chairman Emeritus of the National Commission on Library and Information Science, and currently Chairman, Public Media, Inc., of Chicago, Illinois; Mr.Daniel W. Casey, Commissioner, National Commission on Library and Information Science, from Syracuse, New York; and Ms. Bessie B. Moore, Vice Chair, National Commission on Library and Information Science, from Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Chair will not endeavor to decide the protocol of precedence in presenting your testimony but will be inclined, unless you have a different arrangement among yourself, to ask Ms. Moore to go first. If there is no dissent, we will go in that order.

I should put you all on notice that time is of the essence. We will have to limit your testimony and place your total statements in the hearing record. We will also be interrupted by a vote in about 17 or 18 minutes, which means we will have to recess while I go over and vote and come back.

Having said that, Ms. Moore, we are ready to hear you.

STATEMENT OF BESSIE B. MOORE, VICE CHAIR, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, LITTLE ROCK, AR; DANIEL W. CASEY, COMMISSIONER, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, SYRACUSE, NY, AND CHARLES BENTON, CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, AND CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC MEDIA, INC., CHICAGO, IL

Ms. MOORE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am glad to speak today on behalf of the National Commission on Library and Information Science, which is a permanent, independent agency of the Federal Government and advises the President and the Congress on national library and information policies and plans.

I also would like to say that I have been a long-time advocate for libraries. I am not a librarian. I testified before my first Congressional Committee in 1946, in behalf of the Library Services and Construction Act and have since that time testified many times on behalf of libraries.

Today, in considering this bill, I would like to say that I think this is the most important testimony that I have ever given in all these years. I think the White House Conference on Library and Information Services is the most important next step for the future of libraries and information services for the people of this country.

Other people will speak on other topics, but I would like to speak on the White House Conferences as an institution. They have become a unique and valuable institution in our Nation, and the success of holding them every ten years in areas of critical national concern has been proven. One example is the White House Conference on the Aging, held every ten years by law. In the 1971 Conference, the delegates looked at Federal legislation affecting the aging and recommended changes. They wanted to make certain that the policymaking bodies at the national level had at least one member whose job it was to look after the needs of the aging. Congress responded, and one of the laws changed as a result of this White House Conference was the law of the National Commission, which now requires that at least one member of the Commission shall serve, shall be knowledgeable with respect to library and information services for that group.

There is something special, Mr. Chairman, about a White House Conference, or the White House Conference process, as Charles Benton calls it. In the 1979 Conference, for example, there was an atmosphere of expectancy and sharing; people were introducing themselves to each other and discussing how much there would be to see and hear and learn. There was a great mingling of people from all walks of life, from rural library trustees to presidents of great universities. Many of these delegates had the opportunity—which they would not have had any other way—to see a President of the United States, to hear the scholarly insights of a Dan Boorstin, the clarion call of a Bill Clinton, and the exciting crossfire of a joint Congressional hearing.

These hearings may be routine to you Senators, but they are an exciting event to a citizen from Calico Rock, Arkansas. It was also an opportunity for all of us to experience the wonderful new technology with all of its potential, first-hand.

I believe the White House Conferences lead to a sharing of information, inspiration and motivation, and that will lead us all to action.

I believe that the White House Conference offers a new opportunity, also, to enlist the support from the business community. I served as Director of the Economic Education Program in Arkansas for 20 years and worked daily with the State business leadership. I know first-hand that businessmen as a whole are only now beginning to fully recognize the value of libraries as an economic asset as well as a cultural asset. It pleases me that many businessmen were delegates to the White House Conference and to State conferences. The second Conference would be another way to again get the information providers talking with this important segment of our economy, the movers and the shakers who can help us in so many ways.

Senator **STAFFORD**. You have one minute remaining, Ms. Moore. Please take the time to make a final statement, if you wish.

Ms. **MOORE**. Yes, sir. I would like also to say in closing that the National Commission and I personally believe that the expenditure of the funds for this Conference will be in the public interest and that, as Dr. Boorstin said, so many good things can come out of it that there is no doubt that the money and the effort would be worth it.

Senator **STAFFORD**. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Moore with appendix and responses to questions submitted by Senator Pell follow:]

TESTIMONY OF BESSIE B. MOORE

BEFORE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND HUMANITIES

ON THE PROPOSED 1989

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

APRIL 3, 1987

My name is Bessie Moore, Vice Chairman of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and I have been an advocate for libraries since 1924, when I was a county school supervisor and sought assistance from a small public library in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to supply books to the rural schools. I have testified before Congressional committees for many years. My first testimony was in 1946 on behalf of the original Library Services Act, and for the past 15 years I have testified annually on behalf of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. But I consider today's testimony to be the most important I've ever done, for I sincerely believe that a second White House Conference on Library and Information Services is the most important next step for the future of libraries and information services for the people of this country.

Few would dispute the positive and varied results of the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services. However, it makes good sense after ten years to re-evaluate where we are and look at where we wish to be. In my own life, I was fortunate to have a very wise father. When I was 15 and had just finished teaching a three-month school in the Ozarks, he sat me down for a serious talk. "Bessie," he said to me, "You are now fifteen years old. You have become an adult at an early age and are now a schoolteacher. But if you are to be a true professional, you must look ahead. At least every ten years of your life, you should take some time out to ponder the past ten years and set goals for another decade. You may not reach your goals, but you must have them." I have followed that advice in my life, and I know it works.

White House Conferences have become a unique and valuable institution in our nation, and the success of holding them every ten years in areas of critical national concern has been proven. One example is the White House Conference on the Aging held every ten years. At the 1971 Conference, the delegates looked at federal legislation affecting the aging and recommended changes. They wanted to make certain that policy making bodies at the national level had at least one member whose job it was to look after the needs of the aging. Congress responded, and one of the laws changed as a result of this White House Conference was the law for the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science which now requires that at least one person shall be knowledgeable with respect to the library and information service and science needs of the elderly. I am that person. Many states later followed suit amending their own laws in a similar fashion.

What should we be concerned about in this upcoming White House Conference? First of all, INFORMATION, and lots of it. Information about where we are, opportunities and resources we have lost, new resources we didn't have a decade ago, resources we need for the future. At both the state and national components of a White House Conference there are wonderful opportunities for sharing a vast amount of useful information. This exchange of information was one of the great benefits of the 1979 Conference.

Before we change the course of human events, before action, there must be INSPIRATION. This is another great benefit of a White House Conference held every decade, for inspiration helps us renew our dedication and spurs us on to greater effort. At the state conferences preceding the 1979 conference, many experts and leaders, not only in library and information matters but in what the future holds for society in general, were invited to speak. Many came--even without honoraria--because they believed in the conference as a vehicle to effect change and improve library services for all citizens.

Then came the national conference. There is something about a White House Conference...even at registration there was such an atmosphere of expectancy and sharing. People were introducing themselves to each other and discussing how much there would be to see and hear. There was a great mingling of people from all walks of life--from rural library trustees to presidents of great universities. The sole librarian of a small community might sit next to the director of the Chicago Public Library. All became equal in their participation for the benefit of the institution which has been so instrumental in the development of mankind. Such a wealth not only of information but of inspiration could only be brought together at a White House Conference.

Many of these delegates would never have had the opportunity to see a President of the United States; to hear the scholarly insights of a Daniel Boorstin; the clarion call of a Bill Clinton; or the exciting crossfire of a joint Congressional hearing at any other time in their lives. They may seem routine to you Senators but they are an exciting event to a citizen from Calico Rock, Arkansas. It was also an opportunity for all of us to experience the wonderful new technology, with all its potential, firsthand.

At the end of the White House Conference, everyone felt impelled to ACTION. I recall that the Arkansas delegates engaged in seat swapping on the plane home so we could all discuss next steps for implementing the wonderful ideas that came out of the conference. On the national level, the Commission convened the Committee of 118, now known as the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Task Force. This was a dedicated group of one-half professionals, one-half lay persons whose job is to get the White House Conference resolutions implemented and to keep track of national and state action on them. They stayed alive by their own efforts, and their energy and enthusiasm has kept them going ever since. In addition to monitoring progress on the resolutions, they produce an annual report on what has happened in each state. They have become a strong advocate for a second White House Conference. I doubt that there has ever been a more dedicated and effective group of volunteers. WHCLIST is a model for grassroots particpation in our nation.

It all adds up to ACTION. Stemming from what Charles Benton calls the White House Conference Process, the White House Conference itself is a culmination and celebration of local and state ideas and efforts. And yes, a White House Conference should be glamorous; libraries need a little glamour these days. Glamour doesn't have to be lavish or extravagant to be charismatic.

I offer these observations not as a professional but as a longtime volunteer for libraries. I served on the Arkansas Library Commission beginning in 1941, when Governor Homer Adkins thought I might be able to help the new state library commission. I retired from that Commmission in 1979, after 38 years as a member and 28 years as Chairman. When I include my appointments to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, I have served a total of 46 years on a policy making body for libraries. It is out of this experience that I give my testimony.

I also served as the director of the economic education program in Arkansas for 20 years and dealt with the state business leadership. I know firsthand something that U.S. business as a whole is only now beginning to fully recognize--the value of libraries as an economic asset as well as a cultural asset. It pleased me that many businessmen were delegates to the first White House Conference. The second Conference will be a fine way to again get the information providers talking with the movers and shakers of this country.

As I approach my 85th year, I am coming up on another ten-year review for my life plan. I'd like to put at the top of my list another White House Conference on Library and Information Services which I hope to attend--a White House Conference full of inspiration, information, and action.

I speak for the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, which strongly supports another White House Conference on Library and Information Services. We believe that such a conference is definitely in the public interest, and we urge your support for it. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

APPENDIX I

U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

A History

NCLIS programs and accomplishments since 1971 are listed under the relevant section of our enabling Public Law, P.L. 91-345.

Note: The Public Law is underlined and in brackets.

[Public Law 91-345, signed July 20, 1970,
amended by Public Law 93-29, May 3,1973

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Act."

Section 2. Statement of Policy

The Congress hereby affirms that library and information services adequate to meet the needs of the people of the United States are essential to achieve national goals and to utilize most effectively the Nation's educational resources and that the Federal Government will cooperate with State and local governments and public and private agencies in assuring optimum provision of such services.]

NCLIS Cooperation

NCLIS works with federal, state and local governments and agencies, libraries, citizens organizations and the private sector to improve library and information services for all citizens.

[Section 5. (a) The Commission shall have the primary responsibility for developing or recommending overall plans for, and advising the appropriate governments and agencies on, the policy set forth in section 2. In carrying out that responsibility, the Commission shall --

(1) advise the President and the Congress on the implementation of national policy by such statements, presentations, and reports as it deems appropriate;]

NCLIS has addressed this charge by working in the following fifteen areas:

Assistance to Congress

- At the request of the House of Representatives Science and Technology Committee, NCLIS provided expert advice on a bill calling for establishment of an Institute for Information Policy and Research. We also worked on other programs on the protection of intellectual property.

- NCLIS provided advice, at the request of the Senate Judiciary Committee, on a bill proposing a National Commission on the Public Lending of Books, which would compensate authors for the lending of their works by lending institutions.

- At the request of the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary, NCLIS participated in a Congressional symposium on copyright and technology. One of the themes that emerged is how Congress can best position itself to maintain a balance between production and compensation in order to compensate for creative work and protect intellectual property as well as protect the public interest.

- NCLIS was consulted by Congressional committees about the implications on the U. S. information industry if the U. S. were to withdraw from UNESCO.

Office of Technology Assessment

- The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) included a NCLIS Commissioner and former Chair on an expert panel to review the issues and prepare an assessment on "Intellectual Property Rights in an Age of Electronics and Information."

- NCLIS has been named an advisor to OTA on their two-year study on the topic of "Federal Government Information Technology: Administrative Process and Civil Liberties."

Rural Information Needs

- NCLIS assisted the Congress in coordinating and conducting a Congressional hearing on The Changing Information Needs of Rural America: The Role of Libraries and Information Technology.

Older Americans Act

- NCLIS worked with the Congress on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) by providing information on surveys requested by the Senate, and presenting testimony reflecting the need to specify that public libraries could be recipients of OAA grants.

Copyright

- NCLIS was instrumental in working out the five year review component which allowed the deadlocked Copyright Act of 1976 to proceed.

Literacy, Productivity and Democracy Conference

- NCLIS is working with Congress to plan and conduct a conference in 1989 to increase literacy, productivity and an understanding of the democratic process in America through better utilization of libraries and information services.

Technical Assistance

- NCLIS gives technical advice and assistance on a wide range of library and information topics to Members of Congress and their staffs, Congressional Committees and agencies in the Legislative and Executive Branches.

Library Services and Construction Act

- NCLIS provided technical assistance to the House and Senate on the reauthorization of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). NCLIS urged that recomendations of the White House conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS) be included in the law. Twenty-two of the sixty-four resolutions are addressed in full or in part by the new LSCA. The Commission urged that ten major concepts arising from its studies of library and information needs be incorporated in the law, including Title IV, Library Services to Indian Tribes.

- NCLIS assisted the Congress in coordinating and conducting Congressional hearings on the reauthorization of the Library Services and Construction Act.

Higher Education Act

- NCLIS provided technical assistance to the House and Senate on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

First White House Conference on Library and Information Services

-NCLIS worked with Congress and three administrations to draft, pass and implement Public Law 93-568 calling for a 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Over 100,000 people were involved nationwide in 57 state and territorial preconferences. Of the 64 resolutions passed at the national level, progress has been made in implementing parts of 55 resolutions (parts of 22 resolutions were included in the LSCA, as reauthorized, based on NCLIS recommendations to Congress).

During the Conference NCLIS worked with Congress to cordinate a Joint Congressional Hearing on Library and Information Services on site.

Federal Support for Libraries

- NCLIS is working with Congress and federal agencies to develop policies and specifications for library/information legislation and to encourage the maximum return on the federal government's support of public libraries - approximately 4% of library revenues are provided by the federal government.

Censorship

- NCLIS was directed by the Congress to study the extent of censorship over the past decade (1975-1985) in American public and school libraries and how our society is responding to it.

Title 44 U.S.C.

- NCLIS worked with the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) regarding the Ad Hoc Committee on Depository Library Access to Federal Automated Data Bases and the proposed revisions to the regulations of Title 44 of the U. S. Code. NCLIS advised the JCP to expand its view of federal publishing and printing responsibilities to include the larger perspective of federal information resources management.

Satellite Data

- NCLIS aided the Congress and the Administration in reaching agreement on policies for the archiving of satellite data as part of the commercialization of land remote-sensing satellites.

[(2) conduct studies, surveys, and analyses of the library and informational needs of the Nation, including the special library and informational needs of rural areas, of economically, socially, or culturally deprived persons, and of elderly persons, and the means by which these needs may be met through information centers, through libraries of elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education, and through public, research, special, and other types of libraries;]

NCLIS has addressed this charge by conducting 30 studies, appointing 8 taskforces and continues work in 5 additional areas.

See Appendix II for annotated list of all NCLIS publications.

Library and Information Services

- NCLIS has completed several major projects to improve library and information services in the nation, using different mechanisms such as taskforces, consultants, blue ribbon panels, and in-house studies. For example, the Commission appointed 8 taskforces which generally worked for two years, held eight meetings, and had approximately 15 members (all experts in the subject with differing points of view) including three NCLIS Commissioners. They were not paid salary. They did receive per diem allowance for travel. Each taskforce issued a final report.

The taskforces were on the following subjects:

- Library and Information Services to Cultural Minorities
- Community Information and Referral Services
- Public Sector/Private Sector Interaction in Providing Information Services
- The Role of the School Library Media Program in Networking
- The Role of the Special Library in Nationwide Networks and Cooperative Programs (in cooperation with the Special Libraries Association)
- A Computer Network Protocol for Library and Information Science Applications
- The Role of the Library of Congress in the Evolving National Network
- Toward a Federal Library and Information Services Network

(Note: We find we can no longer use some of these mechanisms to accomplish our projects because of budget restrictions.)

Governance

- NCLIS is assessing the role that public libraries play or could play in providing information to local governments.

Partnerships in Library Services to the Aging

- NCLIS continues its partnerships with the Administration on Aging and ACTION to improve library and information services to the elderly through local and state programs. This is the fastest growing population group in our country.

Rural Library and Information Services Program

- A senior staff member was on loan from the National Agricultural Library for six years to direct the Commission's Rural Library and Information Services program which is helping NCLIS identify and work toward filling the information needs of rural America -- over one-third of the United States population.

- NCLIS organized a National Advisory Board on Rural Information Needs (NABRIN) planning committee in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This committee has recommended that a NABRIN be established at USDA to focus on the information needs of rural America. This is in response to the testimony heard at the Joint Congressional Hearing on "The Changing Information Needs of Rural America--The Role of Libraries and Information Technologies."

- NCLIS was instrumental in establishing a new Special Interest Group on Rural Information Services in the American Society for Information Science (ASIS).

American Indian Library Association

- NCLIS supported the establishment of the American Indian Library Association which now has over 150 members.

Technology Transfer for Adult Literacy

- NCLIS initiated a demonstration project with the Department of Defense/Army Human Engineering Laboratory, for transfering technology developed by the U.S. Navy personnel R & D Center to local libraries for adult literacy programs. The Department of Education and the private sector have participated in discussions which explored the possibility of extending and expanding the demonstration project.

[(3) appraise the adequacies and deficiencies of current library and information resources and services and evaluate the effectiveness of current library and information science programs;]

NCLIS has appraised and evaluated resources, services and effectiveness of library and information programs in the following five areas:

Information Needs of the Aging

- NCLIS is working with the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, the Administration on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services, National Association of State Units on Aging, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, ACTION, and the Department of Labor regarding library and information services provided to the aging.

Information Skills

- NCLIS is working to promote the importance of information finding and using skills to help citizens of all ages to perform more effectively in an information society.

National Library Symbol

- NCLIS was instrumental in the Federal Highway Administration's adoption of a national library symbol for use on highway signs.

Library Services to American Indians

- NCLIS learned first-hand in regional hearings about the lack of library and information services to American Indians living on or near reservations. NCLIS worked with the Congress, the library and information community and the Indian community. This work resulted in Title IV of LSCA which provides federal support for library and information services for Indians living on or near reservations.

Appraising Higher Education Act Criteria

- NCLIS is directed in both the House and Senate bills reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, to conduct a survey for the Congress to evaluate the effectiveness of the criteria specified in the Act.

[(4) develop overall plans for meeting national library and informational needs and for the coordination of activities at the Federal, State, and local levels, taking into consideration all of the library and informational resources of the Nation to meet those needs;]

NCLIS has addressed this charge by working in the following areas:

Preliminary Conference Design Group

- NCLIS established a group of local, state and federal representatives to prepare recommendations for a 1989 national conference on library and information services. These recommendations have been widely disseminated and call for a White House Conference as proposed in pending legislation.

Nationwide Resource Sharing

- In addition to the numerous studies related to networking listed above, the Commission works with the Library of Congress Network Advisory Committee toward the improvement of library and information services through library cooperation and nationwide resource sharing.

Technology Assessment

- NCLIS completed a series of studies on the implications of the new information technologies for the library and information field, including an examination of how information technology can contribute to increased productivity.

Resident Expert on White House Conferences

- NCLIS is consulted frequently as the federal agency with expertise on how to hold an effective and productive White House Conference. For example:

    - NCLIS worked with the White House Conference on Productivity to assure that the management of information resources was included and helped conference participants understand the role of information in national productivity.
    - NCLIS worked with the White House Conference on Small Business to assure that literacy, productivity and the importance of public library resources to small businesses were included.

Role of Fees

- With the Council on Library Resources providing the funds, NCLIS produced a report on "The Role of Fees in Supporting Libraries."

Combatting Illiteracy

- NCLIS continues active participation in the Coalition for Literacy as part of its efforts in combatting illiteracy.

Statistics

- NCLIS has assisted the Department of Education's Center for Statistics in collecting data on public libraries from the states. NCLIS co-hosts with the Center a semi-annual meeting which provides a forum for the library and information community to keep up-to-date on statistics activities in the library/information area and provides the opportunity to learn, first hand, the statistical needs of the library and information community.

1990 Census

- NCLIS is represented on the Office of Management and Budget's Federal Advisory Committee on the 1990 Census.

Dissemination of Federal Information

- NCLIS works to improve the dissemination of federal information by continuing to assist senior government officials with their efforts to improve the management of information resources.

Contracting Out of Library Services

- At the request of Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), NCLIS provided a forum for the discussions of contracting out of library services under OMB Circular A-76. Congress and OMB determined that NCLIS was the appropriate agency to chair and coordinate the meetings to discuss how well the contracting out of library services is working, which services lend themselves to contracting out and which do not.

Recruiting and Educating Information Professionals

- In cooperation with the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), library and information graduate schools and the information industry, NCLIS has established a roundtable on Support for Education of Library and Information Professionals. The goal is to explore ways to enlist current and future employers in the private sector to identify cooperative programs to provide resources needed by library and information science graduate schools for the support of the education of information professionals.

NCLIS/IFLA Information Center

- NCLIS coordinated private sector cooperation to provide an information center to showcase United States technology at the 1985 conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). The information center was produced with the cooperation of almost 50 different groups ranging from small educational publishers to AT&T Bell Laboratories which contributed a total of over $800,000 in hardware, software, database access, publications,and other resources. It will become a permanent working information center for NCLIS, housed at the Commission headquarters and is available for use by other federal agencies, public and private groups and for visitors from around the world.

Continuing Education

- NCLIS was instrumental in setting up the permanent Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange (CLENE).

Information and Productivity

- NCLIS co-hosted with the British Library the first US/UK bilateral meeting on information and productivity. A second conference on The Role of Information in the Economy, with representatives from industry, government, and academia from the U.S., U.K., and Canada will be held in May, 1986.

[(5) be authorized to advise Federal, State, local, and private agencies regarding library and information sciences;]

NCLIS has addressed this charge by working in the following eight areas:

International Information Transfer

- At the request of the Department of State, NCLIS is working with the private sector to enhance the value of U.S. involvement in international information programs and improve the process of international information transfer.

NCLIS Provides International Advice

- At the request of the USIA, NCLIS was invited to advise the Argentine Library Association on library and information services.

- At no expense to the government, the NCLIS Vice Chairman visited and advised the Australian National Commission, which was set up using NCLIS as a model.

- At no expense to the government, a Commissioner visited and advised the Peoples Republic of China and Taiwan on library and information services.

- At the request of USIA, the NCLIS Chairman represented the U.S. at the IFLA conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

- NCLIS has assisted the USIA in revitalizing and strengthening its book and library-related programs abroad. The U. S. Books Abroad Task Force, of which NCLIS is a member, was established at the request of the National Security Advisor.

- Since 1971 persons from all over the world have visited Commission Headquarters, including 150 representatives from 37 foreign countries. We have also had visitors from most of the fifty states and the territories.

Training Indian Librarians

- NCLIS is an advisor to the Training and Assistance for Indian Library Services (TRAILS) program at the University of Oklahoma.

Public/Private Sector Cooperation

- NCLIS continues to work with the private sector (both for-profit and not-for-profit) and libraries to improve the education of information professionals, the recruitment of excellent students into the information profession, and the delivery of information products and services needed by users.

Departments of Defense and Education

- As part of the President's initiative on adult literacy, NCLIS continues working with the Department of Defense, the Department of Education, and local volunteer literacy programs to improve the effectiveness of literacy programs in libraries through technology transfer. This helps implement the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, P. L. 96-480, regarding the transfer of technology developed with federal funds to the public.

Department of Agriculture

- NCLIS works with the Department of Agriculture and local and state groups toward meeting the information needs of citizens living in rural areas.

IBM Partnership

- NCLIS and IBM formed a partnership in which IBM loaned NCLIS personnel for one year to conduct studies on technology and productivity.

Standards for Federal Librarians

- NCLIS analyzed and transmited to the Office of Personnel Management, the concerns of the library and information community concering the proposed OPM standards for federal librarians and expressed its willingness to assist by convening an advisory group that helped develop revised standards responsive to the concerns of the community.

[(6) promote research and development activities which will extend and improve the Nation's library and information-handling capability as essential links in the national communications networks;]

NCLIS has addressed this charge by promoting research and development activities in the following five areas which relate to networking:

Library and Services Construction Act

- NCLIS urged the Congress to include a strong commitment to networking in the reauthorization of LSCA. The Act now encourages and supports extending and improving the Nation's library and information-handling capability as essential links in the national communications neworks.

Federal Activities

- NCLIS continues its ongoing work as a member of the Library of Congress Network Advisory Committee (NAC).

- NCLIS contributed to the Library of Congress' Network Development Office for activities relating to networking such as development of the Subject Cataloging Manual and Library of Congress Subject Headings.

School Library Networking

- NCLIS' Study on School Library Media Program in Networking is being used at the state level.

Special Library Networking

- NCLIS cosponsored with the Special Library Association (SLA) a Taskforce on the Role of Special Libraries in Networking and Cooperatives.

Public/Private Sector Taskforce

-NCLIS Public/Private Sector Taskforce Report includes recommendations on networking.

[(7) submit to the President and the Congress a report on its activities during the preceding fiscal year;]

- NCLIS has submitted annual reports to the President and the Congress.

[(8) make and publish such additional reports as it deems to be necessary, including, but not limited to, reports of *consultants, transcripts of testimony, summary reports, and reports of other Commission findings, studies, and records as it deems appropriate.]*

In addition to its 13 annual reports the Commission has published 65 articles, reports and related papers. See Appendix II for the complete list.

Among the many publications in the last twelve months by NCLIS Commissioners and staff are the following selected items:

- The Five Year Review of Progress Made Toward Implementation of the 64 Resolutions Adopted at the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

- The Final Report of the 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services Preliminary Design Group.

- "An NCLIS Library Statistical Sampler." *Library Journal*, October 15, 1985.

The following articles appeared in the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, November 1985:

- Bearman, Toni Carbo, Co-editor. "Perspectives on . . . The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science."

- Hashim, Elinor M. "National Commission on Libraries and Information Science: A Brief Overview."

- Juergensmeyer, John E. and Sarah G. Bishop. "Access to Information: The Dream and Reality."

- Moore, Bessie Boehm and Christina Carr Young. "Library/Information Services and the Nation's Elderly."

The following products emanated from the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

- The Final Report - Information for the 1980's, The 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services

- The Final Report - Summary, The 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services

- Bringing Information to People, 20 minute videotape

- The White House Conference Program Book

- The Reference Book Collection of the Conference Information Center

- Dialogues on the Future of Library and Information Services 3 audiotapes

- Federal Funding Alternatives

- New Communication and Information Technologies and Their Applications to Individual and Community Use: A Theme Conference

- International Information Exchange: A Theme Conference Summary

- Libraries and Literacy: A Summary Report

- Structure and Governance of Library Networks: Issues for Consideration

- Library and Information Services for Increasing International Understanding and Cooperation: A Discussion Guide

- Library and Information Services for Effectively Governing Society: A Discussion Guide

- Library and Information Services for Improving Organizations and the Professions: A Discussion Guide

- Library and Information Services for Enhancing Lifelong Learning: A Discussion Guide

- Library and Information Services for Meeting Personal Needs: A Discussion Guide

- Issues and Resolutions: A Summary of Pre-Conference Activities: A Graphic Presentation

- Issues and Resolutions: A Summary of Pre-Conference Activities

- Bringing Information to People, a poster

[(b) The Commission is authorized to contract with federal agencies and other public and private agencies to carry out any of its functions under subsection (a) and to publish and disseminate such reports, findings, studies, and records as it deems appropriate.]

Department of Commerce

- The Department of Commerce contracted with NCLIS to advise them on the archiving of data from satellites.

Library of Congress

- NCLIS contracted with the Library of Congress (LC) to assess the sharing of resources and services between federal libraries and information centers and non-federal libraries.

- NCLIS worked with LC Network Development Office to develop and promote networking activities.

Health and Human Services

- NCLIS and the Administration on Aging (AoA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work toward common goals.

ACTION

- NCLIS and ACTION signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work toward common goals.

Department of State

- Beginning in FY 1983, NCLIS became the Secretariat for the United States National Committee to the UNESCO General Information Program. After the U.S. withdrew from UNESCO, the State Department asked NCLIS to advise on international library/information/archives programs that further U.S. objectives and should continue during our official absence from UNESCO. The Commission is working with representatives of the library/information community most concerned with international information programs to advise the State Department on ongoing activities that should receive funding under the Foreign Assistance Act.

National Science Foundation

- NCLIS contracted with the National Science Foundation and the Council on Library Resources to study copyright and national bibliographic control.

Commission on Copyright

- NCLIS contracted with the National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works (CONTU) to work toward resolving the copyright problem.

[(c) The Commission is further authorized to conduct such hearings at such times and places as it deems appropriate for carrying out the purposes of this Act.]

NCLIS has assisted with several Congressional hearings and has held no less than a dozen hearings.

Cultural Minorities Hearings

- NCLIS held hearings on Library and Information Services to Cultural Minorities at the American Library Association Annual Conference, in San Francisco, California.

Rural Needs Hearings

- NCLIS assisted Congress in coordinating and conducting the Joint Congressional Hearing on "The Changing Needs of Rural America - The Role of Libraries and Information Technologies."

LSCA Hearing

- NCLIS assisted Congress in coordinating and conducting Congressional hearings on the reauthorizaion of the Library Services and Consruction Act.

Joint Congressional Hearing at White House Conference

- NCLIS worked with Congress to coordinate a Joint Congressional Hearing on Library and Information Services on site at the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

NCLIS Regional Hearings

- NCLIS held regional hearings nationwide (Midwest-Chicago, Far West-San Francisco, Southeast-Atlanta, Northeast-Boston, Southwest-San Antonio, Mountain Plains-Denver, Mid Atlantic-Philadelphia) to learn first-hand the problems which we addressed in our landmark document "Toward a National Program for Library and Information Services: Goals for Action."

Hearings on Indian Library Needs

- NCLIS held a hearing in Albuquerque, New Mexico concerning library and information services to American Indians on or near Reservations.

- NCLIS had senior policy officials from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Department of the Interior), testify regarding the NCLIS findings about the lack of library and information services being provided American Indians living on or near reservations.

Information Policy Hearings

- NCLIS organized two days of hearings at which 40 representatives of various sectors of the information community assembled to identify and analyze critical information issues from a variety of viewpoints. This was in response to a request from the White House Domestic Council to assist their Committee on the Right to Privacy which was charged with making a comprehensive study of the emerging issues of information policy and recommend how the federal government should address these issues. NCLIS published the report and made it available to the Congress, concerned Executive departments and the library and information community. This is the major policy document in the field, "National Information Policy."

[(d) The heads of all Federal agencies are, to the extent not prohibited by law, directed] to cooperate with the Commission in carrying out the purposes of this Act.]

NCLIS has cooperated with many federal agencies.

Interagency Agreements

- NCLIS has entered into interagency agreements with the Administration on Aging and ACTION.

National Agricultural Library

- Senior staff member on loan to NCLIS from the National Agricultural Library.

Defense Intelligence Agency

- Staff person on loan from Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) for NCLIS information center.

Federal Agencies Cooperated on White House Conference

- Staff lent by Library of Congress, Department of Defense, National Library of Medicine, National Agricultural Library, U.S.I.A. and Department of State for 1979 White House Conference.

Department of Education Center for Statistics

- NCLIS brings together semi-annually officials from the Department of Education's Center for Statistics and representatives from the major library and information associations to identify needed statistics and mechanisms for gathering and disseminating them more efficiently.

Other Cooperative Agencies

- The Commission's broad mandate includes establishing cooperative relationships with agencies such as the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the White House Office of Private Sector Initiatives, OMB, OTA, and the Department of State.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR DR. MOORE FROM SENATOR PELL

Senator Pell: Having been a member of the 1979 Conference Advisory Committee I am wondering if you could tell us briefly about business community involvement in the White House Conference at the state level.

Dr. Moore: At the time of the 1979 White House Conference, I had just completed my 17th year as Director of the Arkansas Council on Economic Education, which in cooperation with business and other sectors, conducted a program of economic education in the public schools and teacher education institutions. This was a job that brought me into daily contact with the business community in the state. Also, during my long tenure as a member of the Arkansas Library Commission--a total of 38 years, serving as Chairman for 28 of them--I was particularly conscious of the potential of business and libraries to work together. Since I had a foot in each field, you might say, I frequently called upon the business community to assist with library matters.

I attended eight of the state White House Conference preconferences, and in each state there was enthusiastic participation of the business community. In my own state a leading banker served as chairman of the conference and became a champion for libraries. This particular business leader would not have become involved with libraries if it were not for the challenge of chairing the state conference preceding the White House Conference, to which he was a delegate. As Chairman of the Arkansas Conference he attracted other business leaders to become participants and to later become advocates for libraries. Many of them continue to be strong advocates for libraries.

I remember in New Hampshire there was a leading banker--also a legislator--who became very involved with the state conference. I could cite numerous other examples in other states. In every conference I found evidence of participation by the business community and significant contributions of money or in-kind services. They also served as leaders at "speak-outs," and as speakers even on radio and television shows. From talking to delegates and others at the national conference, I am certain that this pattern was repeated in all of the state and territorial preconferences.

Senator Pell: I first proposed White House Conference legislation in 1972 and it was a full 5 years before it was funded. I realize that states will need lead time and I am willing to amend the measure to allow for a later date if necessary. Would two years between actual funding and the date of the national conference be adequate time for state and regional activities?

Mr. Casey: Your question focuses attention upon a point of grave concern to me that is the slippage from 1989, which is the 10th anniversary of the first conference, which is the date the 1979 resolution calls for. I feel we must hold the conference in Fiscal Year 1989 (October 1988-September 1989), or as soon as possible thereafter.

If the Call was issued in FY 1987 there might be a possibility of having the White House Conference bill funded through a FY 1987 supplemental appropriations bill which would keep the bill on the FY 1989 track.

Two actions will assure a 1989 date or soon thereafter: speedy passage of the House and Senate bills calling for a White House Conference and signature by the President, plus early deadlines for the state conferences.

I believe two years, at a maximum "between actual funding and the national conference" will be adequate time for state and regional activities.

Although I hope events will move rapidly enough to conduct the conference in FY 1989, it may be necessary to amend the bill to authorize the "Call" for the conference in FY 1989 and the implementation of the conference in FY 1991.

I respectfully refer to the hearing statement of Charles Benton who spoke to the date of the conference. He suggested that the Senate may wish to consider the language in the Bill calling for a White House Conference on Small Business which would provide flexibility in timing for our White House Conference. The language in Public Law 98-276 states that, "The President shall call and conduct a National White House Conference on Small Business not earlier than January 1, 1985 and not later than September 1, 1986." Perhaps the dates for our conference could be "not earlier than September 1, 1989 and not later than September 30, 1991."

Senator **Stafford**. Mr. Casey, we will hear from you next, if that is agreeable.

Mr. **Casey**. Thank you, Senator. I appreciate this opportunity to renew our discussion on the merits of the White House Conference. We first discussed this on November 14th, 1985, and we have had correspondence, so it is very nice this morning to renew this discussion.

First, I am going to quote from a document called "Federal Legislation: Education in New York State", which was published by the New York State Board of Regents, our prestigious agency which governs all education in New York State.

On behalf of the White House Conference, the Regents stated that it believes that,

> The 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services is needed to assist in setting national priorities for library service in the 1900s.

The New York State Board of Regents continues by saying,

> The 1989 Conference should enable library users, librarians, policymakers and public officials to assess the capacity for our libraries to serve all people, to measure the change which has taken place since the 1979 White House Conference, to encourage sound, long-range, community-based planning for all library services, and to initiate Federal, State and local action to improve library services.

That is the document from your neighboring State of New York.

Now, I want to continue from my prepared text to point out to you the persuasive reasons for holding this Conference. The Conference responds to a public demand dating back to 1979. In that year, the 64 resolutions were adopted by the White House Conference, and one of them asked for a renewal of the Conference ten years later.

There has been more recent support for a second Conference as evidenced in the 99th Congress, when 50 Senators and 172 Representatives cosponsored a bill virtually similar to S.J.Res. 26. And as you know, S.J. Res. 26 has been cosponsored by 35 Senators, and the Resolution in the House, H.J. 90, has 93 cosponsors.

Now, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science has appointed a White House Conference Preliminary Design Group made up of local, state and federal representatives. They recommended an overarching theme for the Conference to deal with productivity, literacy and democracy. In fact, you may be interested to know that this very morning, four witnesses testifying are among the sixteen who wrote and unanimously adopted the plans recommended by the Preliminary Design Report. Four of them are in this room—Charles Benton, Wayne Johnson, Patricia Klinck, and Joseph Shubert. And I am attaching a summary of their report.

Also, Senator, the Conference will help our country plan effective ways to meet the information needs of the 21st century. This bill, S.J. 26, calls for local, state, regional and national involvement in the 1989 Conference. Library users, civic leaders, lawmakers, trustees, friends, librarians, information specialists and others will identify unmet library service needs. They will examine library and information service issues and develop recommendations for future library and information services. As I pointed out, the Conference will focus clearly on three themes—productivity, literacy and democracy. It is particularly fitting that the function of libraries in our democracy will be studied during the three years when the United States will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Constitution.

Like no other institutions, libraries provide the record of the blessings of the United States Constitution. Mr. Chairman, I have worked in the field of communications throughout my career, and I am particularly aware of another benefit that the Conference will bring to the population of the United States, and that benefit is greater awareness of the resources in our school, public, academic and special libraries. And in turn, patrons will become better-informed of the technology available to give them rapid access to knowledge. In addition, state, regional and national meetings will stimulate greater lay support for libraries and information centers.

Now, a start in that direction was made in 1979, with the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services. And we are attaching a fact sheet to tell you the fantastic results of that 1979 Conference.

However, Senator Stafford, we have talked enough of the past. Let us look to the future. We must look to the future, for new challenges and new opportunities demand our attention as we contemplate an assessment of the quality and quantity of library and information services offered to residents of the United States.

Therefore, I respectfully urge that the United States Senate enact S.J. Resolution 26 as soon as possible. Yours will be one of the necessary steps to allow your national constituency to shape the character of its library and information services in the 21st century.

Senator, I relinquish the balance of my time to Mr. Benton.

Senator STAFFORD. Very well. Thank you very much for a very forceful statement.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Casey with attachments follow:]

TESTIMONY OF DANIEL W. CASEY
BEFORE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND HUMANITIES
ON THE PROPOSED 1989
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

APRIL 3, 1987

STATEMENT BY DANIEL W. CASEY

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I am Daniel W. Casey of Syracuse, a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and Chairman of the NCLIS White House Conference.

I appreciate this opportunity to share with you reasons justifying enactment of Senate Joint Resolution 26, which authorizes and requests the President to call a White Conference on Library and Information Services.

My communication with your Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities began November 14, 1985, when I urged Senator Stafford to support the Bill which was then before the 99th Congress.

The reasons for holding a 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services are compelling and persuasive. Let me list some of them:

1. The Conference responds to public demand, dating back to 1979. More than 100,000 citizens participated in the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1979 and its associated state, territorial, and thematic preconferences. One of the 64 resolutions passed at the 1979 Conference recommended that a White

House conference on library and information services be held each decade to establish national information goals and priorities, and assure effective transfer of knowledge to the citizenry.

More recent support for a second Conference was evident in the 99th Congress when 50 Senators and 172 Representatives co-sponsored a Bill virtually similar to S.J. Res. 26. And, as you know, S.J. Res. 26 and its companion, H.J. Res. 90, has been cosponsored by 35 Senators and 91 Representatives since it was reintroduced January 21, 1987. I am attaching the list of cosponsors of these bills from the 99th Congress.

2. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science appointed a White House Conference Preliminary Design Group made up of local, state and federal representatives. They recommended three overarching themes for the White House Conference: Library and Information Services:
   - for Productivity
   - for Literacy and
   - for Democracy.

In fact, four witnesses testifying this morning were among the 16 who wrote and unanimously adopted the plans recommended in the Preliminary Design Report.

They are Charles Benton, Wayne Johnson, Patricia Klinck and Joseph Schubert. I am attaching a summary of their report.

3. The conference will help our country plan effective ways to meet the information needs of the 21st century. Libraries in this nation provide access to information and ideas essential for lifelong learning, for national productivity, and for enlightened self-government. It will bring together representatives of many components of our population to assess the changes in our information environment and to plan for the improvement of library services to meet the changing needs of the people of the United States. We shall give serious thought to the impact of new technologies on library and information services, the budgetary problems facing them at every level, and the essential role libraries play in our learning society.

4. Adequate service to users of academic, school, public and special (e.g. corporate, medical and federal) libraries improves the quality of life in our society.

   America's investment in its libraries needs a national assessment each decade to ensure that the citizens' library and information needs are being met.

Because of the importance of this "national assessment," it should be conducted under the sponsorship of the President and the White House. No less a forum will do justice to this task!

S.J. Res. 26 introduced by Senator Pell of Rhode Island and H.J. Res. 90 introduced by Congressman Ford of Michigan call for local, state, regional and national involvement in the 1989 conference by the American public. Library users, civic leaders, lawmakers, trustees, friends, librarians, information specialists and others will identify unmet library service needs, examine library and information service issues, and develop recommendations for future library and information services.

As I've pointed out, the Conference will focus clearly on three themes, thus insuring that participants will have well defined goals to guide their deliberations.

To review the themes: First, productivity. How can information be used more effectively to promote human resource development in order to increase productivity in American business. As the workforce changes to reflect the increased use of elderly and disadvantaged workers, as more business become international, and as most workers today will be required to master five different jobs in the course of their working life, libraries play an increasingly important role in retraining, research and job information counseling.

Next, literacy. The White House Conference would consider how libraries can increase literacy by promoting the recognition that the ability to find and use information is a fundamental skill in today's society.

Lastly, democracy. Our third goal for the White House Conference is probably the most critical -- using library and information services to promote democracy. We need to serve as information centers for all citizens and government officials because a democratic society depends upon the informed participation of its people and leaders.

It is particularly fitting that the function of libraries in our democracy will be studied during the three years when the United States will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of its Constitution.

Like no other institution, libraries provide the record of the blessings of the U.S. Constitution!

Having worked in field of communications throughout my career, I am particularly aware of another benefit that the Conference will bring to the population of the United States.

That benefit is greater awareness of the resources in our school, public, academic and special libraries, and, in turn, patrons will become better informed of the technology available to give them rapid access to the knowledge they seek for education, information and recreation.

In addition, state, regional and national meetings will stimulate greater lay support for libraries and information centers. This activity will give broad visibility to issues having great impact on the quality of life for all Americans. Laymen will be motivated; they will demand that their local, state and national governments elevate their priorities in terms of library and information services.

A start in that direction was made in 1979 at the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Attached is a fact sheet on the impact of the 1979 conference.

For example, an examination of the January 1985 review of the progress made toward implementation of the 1979 resolutions reveals the following:

1. Increases in state appropriations for library and information services, the formation of many statewide Friends of Libraries organizations, and expanded continuing education opportunities.

2. Amendments to the Library Services and Construction Act include provisions from 22 of the 64 White House Conference resolutions. For example, services to the elderly (the fastest growing segment of our population), services to the 27 million functionally illiterate, and services to American Indians on or near reservations are included.

3. Eleven federal agencies are working toward implementing 18 of the White House Conference resolutions.

4. Adoption and implementation of a national library symbol. It is used on the nation's highways to direct library users, and inside building to point the way to the library.

5. The resolution concerning preservation of library and information resources and materials is being implemented in part by the passage of Public Law 98-427, which authorizes the construction of a mass deacidification facility. In addition, the Library of Congress is experimenting with optical disk technology for preservation purposes as well as service.

But, enough examples from the past -- we must look to the future, for new challenges and opportunities demand our attention as we contemplate an assessment of the quality and quantity of the library and information services offered to residents of the United States.

I respectfully urge the United States Senate to enact S.J. Res. 26 as soon as possible. Yours will be one of the necessary steps to allow your national constituency to shape the character of its library and information service in the 21st century.

Thank you, now, I shall welcome questions.

Attachments

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
Legislation for WHCLIS in 1989

As of October 18, 1986, when the 99th Congress adjourned, 172 Representatives and 50 Senators had agreed to cosponsor the legislation calling for a WHCLIS in 1989. The measures, H.J.Res. 244 and S.J.Res. 112, were introduced in April 1985 during National Library Week by Rep. William Ford (D-MI) and Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI).

State	H.J.Res. 244 Cosponsors	S.J.Res. 112 Cosponsors
AL	Bevill (D), Erdreich (D), Shelby (D), Callahan (R)	
AK	Young (R)	Murkowski (R), Stevens (R)
AZ		DeConcini (D), Goldwater (R)
AR	Hammerschmidt (R), Robinson (D), Anthony (D), Alexander (D)	Bumpers (D), Pryor (D)
CA	Burton (D), Fazio (D), Lantos (D), Martinez (D), Matsui (D), Beilenson (D), Moorhead (R), Miller (D), Dymally (D), Brown (D), Hawkins (D)	Cranston (D), Wilson (R)
CO	Kramer (R), Wirth (D), Brown (R)	
CT	Gejdenson (D), Kennelly (D), Johnson (R), McKinney (R), Morrison (D)	Dodd (D)
DE	Carper (D)	
DC	Fauntroy (D)	
FL	Lehman (D), Lewis (R), Shaw (R), Bennett (D), Chappell (D), Fascell (D), Smith (D), Ireland (R)	Chiles (D), Hawkins (R)
GA	Gingrich (R), Swindall (R)	
HI	Akaka (D), Abecrombie (D)	Inouye (D)
ID		
IL	Collins (D), Evans (D), Porter (R), Bruce (D), Fawell (R), Hayes (D), Russo (D), Lipinski (D), Price (D)	Dixon (D), Simon (D)
IN	Jacobs (D)	
IA	Leach (R), Evans (R), Tauke (R)	Grassley (R)
KS	Roberts (R), Meyers (R)	
KY	Perkins (D)	
LA	Long (D), Livingston (R)	
ME	McKernan (R), Snowe (R)	
MD	Barnes (D), Mitchell (D)	Sarbanes (D)
MA	Markey (D), Donnelly (D), Moakley (D), Atkins (D) Frank (D)	Kennedy (D)
MI	Conyers (D), Crockett (D), Ford (D), Kildee (D), Pursell (R), Hertel (D)	Riegle (D), Levin (D)
MN	Frenzel (R), Oberstar (D), Penny (D), Sabo (D), Sikorski (D), Weber (R), Vento (D)	Durenberger (R)

State	H.J.Res. 244 Cosponsors	S.J.Res. 112 Cosponsors
MS	Dowdy (D)	Cochran (R)
MO	Clay (D), Young (D), Gephardt (D), Wheat (D)	Eagleton (D)
MT	Williams (D)	Baucus (D), Melcher (D)
NE		Exon (D)
NV		Laxalt (R)
NH		
NJ	Dwyer (D), Guarini (D), Hughes (D), Rodino (D), Roe (D), Smith (R), Courter (R), Saxton (R), Gallo (R), Howard (D), Torricelli (D)	Bradley (D)
NM		
NY	Ackerman (D), Addabbo (D), Biaggi (D), DioGuardi (R), Downey (D), Fish (R), Gilman (R), Horton (R), Kemp (R), Manton (D), Martin (R), Mrazek (D), Owens (D), Rangel (D), Solarz (D), Towns (D), Weiss (D), Wortley (R), Green (R), Lent (R), Schumer (D), Molinari (R), McHugh (D), Waldon (D), Stratton (D), Nowak (D), Garcia (D), Boehlert (R), LaFalce (D)	D'Amato (R), Moynihan (D)
NC	Rose (D), Hefner (D), Broyhill (R), Valentine (D)	Broyhill (R)
ND	Dorgan (D)	Burdick (D)
OH	Feighan (D), Traficant (D), Eckart (D), Stokes (D)	
OK		Nickles (R)
OR	D.Smith (R), R.Smith (R)	Hatfield (R)
PA	Edgar (D), Yatron (D), Coughlin (R), Kostmayer (D), Murphy (D), Walgren (D), Gaydos (D)	Heinz (R), Specter (R)
PR	Fuster (D)	
RI	St. Germain (D)	Pell (D), Chafee (R)
SC	Hartnett (R), Derrick (D), Spratt (D), Tallon (D), Spence (R), Campbell (R)	Hollings (D), Thurmond (R)
SD	Daschle (D)	Pressler (R), Abdnor (R)
TN	Quillen (R), Lloyd (D), Boner (D), Duncan (R)	Gore (D)
TX	Wilson (D)	Bentsen (D)
UT	Nielson (R)	Hatch (R)
VT	Jeffords (R)	Leahy (D)
VA	Boucher (D), Wolf (R), Bateman (R)	Trible (R), Warner (R)
WA		
WV	Mollohan (D), Rahall (D), Staggers (D), Wise (D)	Rockefeller (D), Byrd (D)
WI	Petri (R), Kastenmeier (D), Roth (R)	Kasten (R)
WY		

October 1986

American Library Association, Washington Office, 202/547-4440.

SUMMARY

NCLIS White House Conference on Library and Information Services Preliminary Design Group Report

LEGISLATION: In April, 1985, identical resolutions (S.J. Res. 112 and H.J. Res. 244) were introduced in the House and Senate, calling for a second White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS) in 1989 by Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI) and Rep. William Ford (D-MI). National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) Chair Eleanor Hashim then appointed the WHCLIS Preliminary Design Group. Members are: William G. Asp, Design Group Chairman; from NCLIS, Gordon M. Ambach, Charles Benton (Ex Officio), Daniel Carter, Byron Leeds, Margaret Phelan and Mary Alice Reszetar, White House Conference Program Officer; from COSLA, Wayne Johnson, Patricia Klinck, Bridget Lamont and Joseph F. Shubert; from WHCLIST, Barbara Cooper, Bruce Daniels, Jule Shipman, Lotsee Smith and Amanda Williams; from Library of Congress, Robert Chartrand (Ex Officio).

The Design Group's report, accepted by NCLIS December 3, 1985, makes the following recommendations.

SCOPE AND FOCUS: The Design Group proposed three overarching themes for the 1989 WHC: library and information services for productivity, for literacy, and for democracy. These themes will enable the Conference to identify unmet needs, examine issues, and develop recommendations as called for in the pending legislation.

Productivity: Productivity in the U.S. has slowed over the last decade. As a result, our advantage in world markets has been shaken and employment in many industries is affected. Knowledge, learning, information and skilled intelligence are the new raw materials of international commerce. Economists often cite two factors in productivity increases and decreases: investment in technology (equipment, facilities, process) and investment in human resources (knowledge and development of workers' skills and capabilities). Increased employment is a key part of economic growth and the stability of the economy.

Libraries are information agencies in an information society. They are indispensable to the economic well-being of our nation. Research and development depends upon access to information. Libraries are needed by industries, business and government as they deal with the need to increase productivity and adapt to new technology. Business, science and technology sections of public and university libraries every day provide technical reports, international trade information, economic data, federal standards and specifications, copies of patents, and other information needed for business and industrial purposes. Small businesses, an increasingly significant part of our economy, need library services because they cannot afford extensive in-house information resources or massive retraining programs.

Literacy: Illiteracy constitutes a national crisis. Some 27 million persons, or one-fifth of the adult population, are unable to read beyond a fifth grade level. These Americans are functionally illiterate---unable to complete an application form, write a check, address an envelope, help their children with homework, or read a warning sign. At the same time, the changing nature of many jobs and a more complex society demands higher levels of reading and writing ability. Young people join the ranks of the reading handicapped every day.

Libraries play a role in developing and expanding literacy. They provide materials and space, for educators, tutors and students. Literacy programs can involve all types of libraries---school, academic, public, institution, special and Native American.

In a society that daily becomes more information-oriented and more economically dependent on the effective use of knowledge, the ability to find and use information is a fundamental skill. Productive, literate citizens must have the ability to sort through bodies of information, find what is needed and use it to solve problems.

Democracy: Like business, government at local, state and federal levels is part of today's complicated information society. More than ever before, information is a crucial resource in a democratic society. Information is the resource upon which electors make their decisions, and upon which elected and appointed officials and their staffs make decisions that affect those governed. Personnel and government decision making is being altered by technology, social change, and a rethinking of federal and state responsibilities. As changes take place in the federal government, more is expected of state and local governments. Government decision making is not the sole responsibility of elected or paid officials; a democratic society depends upon the informed participation of its people.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: While the Conference is held under the auspices of NCLIS, the 30-person White House Conference Advisory Committee proposed in the legislation has responsibility for planning and conducting the Conference. Eight members are appointed by the NCLIS Chair, ten by the President, five by the Speaker of the House (no more than three Representatives), and five by the President pro tempore of the Senate (no more than three Senators). The Secretary of Education and the Librarian of Congress would be Advisory Committee members.

STATE PARTICIPATION: Based on the experience of WHCLIS I, the pending legislation should be amended to allow maximum flexibility in designing state and regional pre-conferences. Some areas may prefer to participate in multi-state activities. Timeliness is important; pre-WHC activities should be held as close in time as possible to the national event. Technology, especially teleconferencing and computer networking, should be utilized for cost-effective, pre-conference activities and as a medium for training delegates.

STAFFING: The Conference needs a core full-time staff but additional staff might be on detail or loan from other sources.

FINANCING: The Design Group identified three alternatives: 1) federal appropriations, 2) a combination of federal, state and private sources, or 3) funding entirely from the private sector. [Rep. Bill Ford (D-MI), Chairman of the House Postsecondary Education Subcommittee, asked at the library oversight hearing held April 8, 1986, what WHCLIS II would cost. The response was that it would not be much more than the '79 WHC ($3.5 million), perhaps about $5 million, with additional private and other support.]

SCHEDULING: The Design Group proposed a detailed timeline, from fall of 1985 through the post-conference formation of the Task Force to identify and plan implementation. [About one-fourth of the House and Senate have, so far, co-sponsored the pending legislation, but time is running short if the measures are to be passed in the 99th Congress.]

Senator STAFFORD. Mr. Benton, we would be glad to hear from you.

Mr. BENTON. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Chairman, it is a privilege and a pleasure to be invited to testify before your Committee on the proposed 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services, S.J. Res. 26.

I assume that a central purpose of these hearings is to establish for the record what needs could be best served through holding another White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

Is now the appropriate time for such an undertaking? And if it does go forward, what might be accomplished? In fact, what was accomplished by the first such Conference? And is the process of sufficient value to be continued?

I am sure that all the panelists before you today will shed light on these questions, drawing on their own experiences and professional and personal commitments to the field of library and information services.

What I would like to focus on in my testimony are some thoughts about the overall rationale, major themes, and funding options for the proposed 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

Rationale. As to why another White House Conference on Library and Information Services is needed as we move into the 1990s, I believe the rationale is clear for the public, for Congress, and for this Administration. From the public's perspective, it is now axiomatic that we are moving from an industrial to an information society. In 1950, 17 percent of the work force was "information workers"; the projection for 1990 is 62 percent.

The explosion of information, let alone information technology, proceeds at an alarming pace. In addition to proficiency in the 3 R's today, one also needs to be computer literate to qualify for an increasing number of jobs. Because most workers today will be required to master several different jobs in the course of their working lives, libraries can play an increasingly important role in research, in job information counseling, and in retraining. Of course, "man cannot live by bread alone." The traditional values of libraries as cultural institutions, in addition to their information and education roles, are needed now more than ever in our media society, as most eloquently spoken to by Dr. Boorstin.

For Congress, the rationale seems similarly clear. Following the 1979 Conference, Congress amended, improved and reauthorized the Library Services and Construction Act, which President Reagan signed into law in October of 1984. Twenty-two of the sixty-four White House Conference Resolutions were in whole or in part included in the amended LSCA. But much still needs and remains to be done.

With enormous potentials of technology in our library and information services, perhaps the next time around Congress will find that a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) is more responsive to the times than the current Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). Dr. Boorstin is proposing to rename the White House Conference today; here is a thought for you on the Congressional legislation.

Whatever the legislation in this area, the point is to make it as responsive as possible to public and user needs. The White House Conference can help articulate and develop consensus on these needs.

Now, thirdly, there are several reasons why this Administration will be supportive of a second White House Conference on Library and Information Services. The proposed substantive agenda would seem to tie in directly with both the philosophy and major initiatives of the Reagan Administration—re-educating the work force to increase our competitive edge; combatting illiteracy—a subject of particular interest to Mrs. Bush, and also considering President Reagan's literacy initiatives with the Governors during his first term—and supporting the new Federalism through improved library and information services at the local level. All these issues can be embraced as important priorities by leaders with differing views across the political spectrum.

Furthermore, they not only meet perceived basic needs, but also do not have implicit in them a big new lobbying effort for increased federal funding. Rather, the emphasis is on making the most of resources currently available in addressing the most important needs in the best possible way.

My testimony goes on to talk about the three proposed themes for the White House Conference, which Dan Casey has addressed, and so I will skip that part, although I would like to read the brief section on literacy. This is a point of particular passion for me, since one of the few substantive contributions I made as the Chairman of the first White House Conference was calling for a pre-White House Conference on "Literacy and Libraries". It did take place, with about 100 people attending, and literacy now is much more in the public eye.

Library and Information Services for Literacy, the first proposed theme. The statistics are well-known here, and I am sure others will be offering testimony in depth on this problem. The overriding point is that illiteracy makes for a terrible waste of our human resources. We are paying many billions of dollars of welfare, unemployment compensation, and correctional costs that could be greatly reduced were it not for illiteracy.

Further, the very idea of literacy itself needs redefinition in our information age. In this society, that daily becomes more information-oriented and more economically dependent on the effective use of knowledge, the ability to find and use information is a fundamental skill. We need to be information-literate and media-literate as well as 3R's literate.

That library and information services can make major contributions toward meeting these basic needs is beyond rational argument. The question is how best to do it?

I raise these similar questions in Library and Information Services for Productivity and Library and Information Services for Democracy, which are in my testimony, so I will not go into them now.

I would like to conclude with some brief comments about funding.

These questions on how library and information services can best be utilized to meet fundamental needs in our society—literacy—including the redefinition of basic communication skills—increased productivity, and support of our democratic process—are precisely the kinds of questions that justify the time, effort and costs of a White House Conference.

Now we come to the matter of costs and needed budget. The White House Conference Preliminary Design Group recommendations, which will be included as a part of this hearing, and which Dan has already referred to, discusses alternatives for funding on page 18 of the December 1985 report to the Commission. It is envisioned by NCLIS that the second alternative, namely, a combination of funds from Federal, State and private sources, ultimately will be the most viable alternative.

Since this is an authorization hearing and we will be justifying the costs to both Congressional appropriations committees, I need only make a few points here for the record.

The last time around, Senator Stafford, in 1973, the request was for $12.4 million. We actually received from the Federal Government not $15 million, but $3.5 million. In fact, that money was increased to about $8 million with contributions from the States and other sources, so that the record on the budget for the last time around is $3.5 million from the Federal Government and approximately $4.5 million from the States and other sources. And that included not only the White House Conference in Washington, but also the 57 State and Territory pre-conferences. So there was a tremendous payoff involving 100,000 people in the process, and it was not just a national White House Conference—a very crucial point on the funding.

Now, for the next Conference, it is important to allow the States who have projected the White House Conference in their LSCA five-year plans to use whatever money they feel is appropriate to further the goals of library and information services in their States. Funding options for State and/or regional pre-conferences should remain flexible.

Because of inflation, the Congressional Budget Office has advised that the money appropriated in 1977 is the equivalent of $15 million in today's dollars. Perhaps that is where the confusion rests with the number that you quoted earlier. It might cost us this amount to replicate the 1979 White House Conference, but I do not believe that is what anyone envisions.

With current technology, there are alternative ways to have meetings, such as live via interactive satellite communications, where you do not incur the travel expenses for those participating. It is an issue of moving information instead of moving people, and much more of that can be done.

I believe we would be penny-wise and pound-foolish not to spend two to three cents a head for the 240 million people in this country to help our citizens on a nationwide basis to assess how we can better use the library and information resources that we have.

Therefore, any request of $5.5 to $7 million as the Federal Government's share can hardly be viewed as unreasonable.

With sufficient lead-time, and also with the do's and don'ts experience of the first White House Conference, the State and private sector, including both foundations and business, could again be counted on to more than match the Federal share.

Finally, as to timing, the Senate may wish to consider the language in the bill calling for a White House Conference on Small Business, which I attended last year as a delegate from Illinois. This language would provide flexibility in timing for the Conference, as specified in my written testimony. Perhaps the dates for our Conference could not be earlier than September 1st, 1989, and not later than September 1st, 1991, because of course, this does depend on the funding.

Let me conclude with a brief personal observation about the White House Conference process itself.

As Chairman of the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services, I experienced first-hand both the agony and the ecstasy of translating grassroots user needs into policy recommendations for both the State and Federal levels.

Much was accomplished by this, and of course, much remains to be done in our rapidly changing society. Especially in the information arena, a periodic if not continuous needs assessment process is in order. A White House Conference focused on the right issues—and I believe that we have focused on the right issues with library and information services for literacy, productivity and democracy, adequately funded and properly managed, would carry out this process at the highest level. It truly would be the democratic process at work. Our information society demands nothing less.

Thank you for allowing me to share these thoughts with you, and we will be happy to answer whatever questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Benton with attachments follows:]

TESTIMONY OF CHARLES BENTON

BEFORE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND HUMANITIES

ON THE PROPOSED 1989

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

APRIL 3, 1987

Mr. Chairman, it is a privilege and a pleasure to be invited to testify before your committee on the proposed 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services, Senate Joint Resolution 26.

As a lead proposer of the legislation in the Senate and as a steadfast supporter of the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1979, the entire library library and information services community is much indebted to you. I am also most grateful for your generous support of me when I served as Chairman of the 1979 Conference and as Chairman of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

I assume that a central purpose of these hearings is to establish for the record what needs could be served through holding another White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Is now the appropriate time for such an undertaking, and if it does go forward, what might be accomplished? In fact, what was accomplished by the first such conference, and is this process of sufficient value to be continued? I am sure that all the panelists before you today will shed light on these questions, drawing on their own experiences and professional and personal commitments to the field of library and information services.

What I would like to focus on in my testimony are some thoughts about the overall rationale, major themes, and funding options for the proposed 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Then, Bessie Moore, Dan Casey and I would be delighted to try and answer any questions you might have for us.

Rationale

As to why another White House Conference on Library and Information Services is needed as we move into the 1990's, I believe the rationale is clear for the public, for Congress and for this administration. From the public's perspective, it's now axiomatic that we are moving from an industrial to an information society. In 1950, 17% of the workforce was "information workers"; the projection for 1990 is 62%. The explosion of information, let alone information technology, proceeds at an alarming pace. In addition to proficiency in the 3 R's today, one also needs to be computer-literate to qualify for an increasing number of jobs. As most workers today will be required to master several different jobs in the course of their working lives, libraries can play an increasingly important role in research, job information counselling, and retraining. Of course, "man cannot live by bread alone". The traditional values of libraries as cultural institutions, in addition to their information and educational roles, are needed now more than ever in our media society.

For Congress, the rationale seems similarly clear. Following the 1979 conference, Congress amended, improved and re-authorized the Library Services and Construction Act, which President Reagan signed into law in October of 1984. 22 of the 64 White House conference resolutions were in whole or in part included in the amended LSCA. But much still needs and remains to be done. With the enormous potential of technology in library and information services, perhaps the next time around Congress will find that a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA!) is more responsive to the times than the current Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA).

Whatever the legislation in this area, the point is to make it as responsive as possible to public and user needs. The White House Conference can help articulate and develop concensus on those needs. (I am attaching to my testimony a recent article I wrote for the Library Journal entitled, "Bringing Information to People", which elaborates further on this theme.)

There are several reasons why this administration will be supportive of the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services. The proposed substantive agenda would seem to tie in directly with both the philosophy and major initiatives of the Reagan administration. Re-educating the workforce to increase our competitive edge, combatting illiteracy (a subject of particular interest to Mrs. Bush and also considering President Reagan's literacy initiatives with the governors during his first term) and supporting the new Federalism through improved library and information services at the local level...are all issues that can be embraced as important priorities by leaders with differing views across the political spectrum. Furthermore, they not only meet perceived basic needs, but do not have implicit in them a big new lobbying effort for increased federal funding. Rather, the emphasis is on making the most of resources currently available in addressing the most important needs in the best possible way.

Let me now turn to the three proposed themes for the 1989 Conference on Library and Information Services. The recommendations of an adhoc planning committee for the 1989 Conference convened by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, are that there be three major themes:

Library and Information Services for LITERACY, PRODUCTIVITY AND DEMOCRACY -

These themes are both interrelated and mutually supportive, and flow naturally from the results of the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Some highlights of the proposed conference themes may now be in order.

First, Library and Information Services for Literacy.

The statistics are well known here, and I am sure others will be offering testimony in-depth on this problem. The overriding point is that illiteracy makes for a terrible waste of our human resources. We are paying many billions of dollars of welfare, unemployment compensation, and correctional costs that could be greatly reduced were it not for illiteracy. Further, the very idea of literacy itself needs redefinition in our Information Age. In this society that daily becomes more information-oriented and more economically dependent on the effective use of knowledge, the ability to find and use information is a fundamental skill. We need to be information literate, and media literate, as well as 3R's Literate. That library and information services can make major contributions toward meeting these basic needs is beyond rational argument. The question is: How best to do it?

The second recommended theme is:

Library and Information Services for Productivity.

The report of our Preliminary Design Group for the 1989 Conference is most eloquent on this point:

"Human resource development is critically important to increasing productivity. Productivity is reduced, when workers have difficulty coping with day to day responsibilities or envisioning a long-term productive career. Fiber-optics, telecommunications, robotics, biotechnology, microelectronics and other technologies are re-defining the way most businesses work. The technology and a shift from a manufacturing to a service- and information-driven economy mandate extensive and ongoing retraining for the work force. This retraining requires literacy skills on the part of workers and assures their ability for continuing learning. Most workers today will be required to master 5 different jobs in the course of their working life."

"The work force will shrink as the "baby boom" generation begins to retire, and the nation will be increasingly dependent upon minority people in the work force. As there are fewer workers and a higher percentage of disadvantaged workers, opportunities for life-long learning must become part of the foundation upon which we build renewed national productivity."

"Libraries are information agencies in an information society. They are indispensable to the economic well-being of our nation. Research and development depends upon access to information. Libraries are needed by industry, business, and government as they deal with the need to increase productivity and adapt to new technologies."

Again, the question: How can library and information services make the most effective contributions in meeting these basic needs?

The third recommended theme is Library and Information Services for Democracy.

With the shift of emphasis from the federal to state and local governments, there is an obvious need for more and better information upon which electors make their decisions, and information upon which elected and appointed officials and their staff make decisions affecting those governed. Further, from the Preliminary Design Group report:

"Personal and government decision-making is being altered by technology, social change, and a re-thinking of federal and state responsibilities. Information can help citizens and public officials anticipate, keep abreast of, and understand issues confronting our society—issues that might challenge our basic ways of living and thinking. Government decision-making is not the sole responsibility of elected and paid officials. A democratic society depends upon the informed participation of its people. The

Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, which coincides with the proposed White House Conference, suggests the importance and timeliness of this theme.

Question: How can library and information services contribute maximumly toward the availability of more and better information for enlightened use by the public as well as elected officials for making the best decisions possible in our democracy?

These questions on how library and information services can best be utilized to meet fundamental needs in our society - literacy, including the redefining of basic communication skills, increased productivity, and support of our democratic process, are the kinds of questions that justify the time, effort, and costs of a White House Conference.

Funding

We now come to the matter of costs and needed budget. The White House Conference Preliminary Design Group Report, which will be included as part of this hearing record, discusses alternatives for funding on page 18 of the December, 1985 report to National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. It is envisioned by NCLIS that the second alternative, namely a combination of funds from federal, state and private sources, will ultimately be the most viable alternative.

Since this is an authorization hearing, and we will be justifying the costs to both Congressional appropriations committees, I need only make a few points here for the record. When we testified before Congress in 1973, we said that we would need $12.4 million dollars, based on the costs of the then recently concluded White House Conference on Aging. We received a $3.5 million appropriation which did not cover many of the expenses we had originally projected. These costs had to be covered by funding from other sources. The $3.5 million was more than matched by state and local contributions bringing the resources available for the 57 State and Territorial pre-conferences and National Conference to approximately $8 million.

Partial funding for the pre-conferences came from Federal money administered by NCLIS. The States and Territories contributed the remaining 45 to 64 percent according to a formula based upon their populations. The number of delegates and alternates selected by each pre-Conference for the national conference was determined by each State's total representation in the United States Congress.

For the next conference it is important to allow the states, who have projected the White House Conference in their LSCA 5 year plans, to use whatever monies they feel is appropriate to further the goals of library and information services in their state. Funding options for State and/or Regional pre-conferences should remain flexible.

Because of inflation, the Congressional Budget Office has advised that the money appropriated in 1977 is the equivalent of 15 million in today's dollars. It might cost this amount to replicate the 1979 White House Conference, but I don't believe that is what anyone envisions. With the current technology there are alternative ways to have meetings, such as via live, interactive satellite communications, where you don't incur the travel expenses for those participating.

I feel we would be penny-wise and pound foolish not to spend 2 to 3 cents a head for the 240 million people in this country to help our citizens, on a nationwide basis, assess how we can better use the resources we have.

Therefore, any request of $5.5 to $7 million as the Federal Government's share can hardly be viewed as unreasonable. With sufficient lead time, and also with the "dos and don't" experience of the first White House Conference, the states and private sector, including both foundations and business, could again be counted on to more than match the Federal share.

Finally, as to timing, the Senate may wish to consider the language in the Bill calling for a White House Conference on Small Business, which I attended last year as a delegate from Illinois. This language would provide flexibility in timing for our Conference. The language in P.L. 98-276 states that, "The President shall call and conduct a National White House Conference on Small Business not earlier than January 1, 1985 and not later than September 1, 1986." Perhaps the dates for our conference could be not earlier than September 1, 1989 and not later than September 1, 1991.

Let me conclude with a personal observation about the White House Conference process itself. As Chairman of the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services, I experienced first hand both the agony and the ecstacy of translating grassroots user needs into policy recommendations for both the state and federal levels. Much was accomplished by this, and, of course, much remains to be done. In our rapidly changing society, especially in the information arena, a periodic if not continuous needs assessment process is in order. A White House Conference focused on the right issues, adequately funded, and properly managed, is carrying out this process at the highest level. It is truly the democratic process at work. Our information society demands nothing less!

Thank you for allowing me to share these thoughts with you. I will be happy to try and answer your questions.

Attachments

April 19, 1987

Regarding the name of the White House Conference - Statement by Charles Benton

I understand completely Dan Boorstin's desire to add literacy and books to the title of the proposed White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Dr. Boorstin is not only an outstanding scholar and author in his own right, but he took the lead in creating the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress and encouraging its spin-off into similar state organizations all across the country.

I am also committed to the cause of literacy as evidenced by the fact that in 1978 I initiated a Pre-White House Theme Conference "on libraries and literacy", with recommendations flowing from it into our national conference.

However, since the 16 member adhoc planning committee of the National Commission on Library and Information Services has chosen to recommend literacy as one of the three major themes of the upcoming Conference on Library and Information Services, I think that this perhaps provides sufficient emphasis for addressing literacy concerns at the conference. Further, I think we need to encourage libraries to take more responsibility for literacy services not only to the functionally adult illiterates, but also in providing remedial help to young people in school. If literacy were listed as a separate concept in the title of the White House Conference itself, then perhaps this would diminish the emphasis on the integration of efforts, which I believe is necessary.

If this integrated approach yields disappointing results, then, of course, it might be worth considering calling for a separate White House Conference on Literacy, which would focus attention on that issue alone. This might even encourage one of the central recommendations of our proposed conference on Library and Information Services.

"TOWARDS 1989"

Bringing Information to People

By Charles Benton

ON NOVEMBER 15, 1979, after more than two decades of dedicated effort on the part of librarians, trustees, and concerned citizens, the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services was convened in Washington, D.C. In the four and one-half days that followed, more than 3600 participants, including a total of 806 delegates and alternates, discussed and debated some of the most critical issues emerging in contemporary society. It was the largest White House Conference ever held at one location and the culmination of a nationwide effort involving more than 100,000 people, a fact that underlined the importance of the issues and the widespread interest in their resolution.

The timing of the conference was fortunate. Advances in computer and communications technologies were fast bringing about profound changes in the way the American people get and use information. A major concern was the future role of library and information services in our emerging Information Society.

The overall theme of the White House Conference was "Bringing Information to People," and the Conference itself was structured around user needs. Five major theme areas were:

Library and Information Services for:

- Meeting Personal Needs
- Enhancing Lifelong Learning
- Improving Organizations and Professions
- Effectively Governing Society
- Increasing International Cooperation

The delegates passed 64 resolutions, 55 of which have since been acted on, in part or entirely. The credit and thanks for this achievement go, in large part, to the dedicated work of the state librarians, WHCLIST (The White House Conference on Library and Information Services Task Force), FOLUSA (Friends of Libraries, U.S.A.), all of the library and information professional and trade associations, NCLIS, and especially the ALA Washington Office. In short, the entire library/information community should be credited with the results.

Perhaps the single most important result so far of the White House Conference was the passage of the 1984 amendments to the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). This piece of legislation, which responds to 2 resolutions, represents an extremely successful partnership among the federal and the state and local sectors. Typically, one federal dollar has been matched by $20 at the state and local level. Innovative projects to provide library/information services to the least served users and to improve services for all are among the principal results of these prudently spent funds.

Other important outcomes of the White House Conference are the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science's programs—completed, ongoing, and planned. NCLIS has dedicated its efforts toward improving and expanding library/information services and continuing the White House Conference process as it plans for the 1989 event.

As the second Chairman of the Commission, I was also appointed to serve as Conference Chairman. I cannot think of a more demanding and exciting challenge than trying to guide so many people committed to meeting user needs—"bringing information to

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Charles Benton is Commissioner and Former Chairman of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. This is the first of three articles that describe the implementation of resolutions from the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services make the library the first place in the community to which people turn when seeking information and referral services. The library/information community needs to educate the citizenry and work toward achieving passage of appropriate legislative language and policy to show that CI&R is one answer to the human dilemma of not knowing where to turn for help. Some progress was made toward that end in the recent revisions of LSCA.

Lifelong learning

The U.S. Department of Education's *Nation at Risk* report, along with reports from several other groups, had noticeable omissions of the importance of library and information resources in lifelong learning. Under the leadership of Commissioner Gordon Ambach, then President-elect and now President of the Council of Chief State School Officers, NCLIS issued a statement noting this omission and recommending the strengthening of elementary and secondary school library media services for teaching skills of finding and using information effectively. Subsequently, the Department of Education published *Alliance for Excellence: Librarians Respond to "A Nation at Risk."*

> *"In collaboration with the Army Human Engineering Laboratory of the Department of Defense, NCLIS has established two demonstration sites to determine whether computer technology . . . to instruct military recruits . . .can be used in volunteer literacy programs based in public libraries"*

Organizations & professions

The Role of the Special Library in Networks and Cooperatives was addressed on White House Conference resolutions C1, C2, and C13. The NCLIS/Special Libraries Association Task Force produced a report that revealed that special librarians were more active network participants than had been thought. A major barrier to the participation of special libraries in OCLC, that of having to contribute all their cataloging records to the public database, was removed during the course of the study. There is still work to be done to remove constraints from corporate library resource sharing.

Information for governance

White House conference resolutions on this theme (A1, A2, A11) are addressed in a major new NCLIS initiative for FY 1986, to help promote and strengthen local libraries as the information resource center for local governments. NCLIS has also been concerned about the most effective dissemination of government information, especially in connection with its public/private sector task force. Each of these projects supports one or more theme areas and/or resolutions of the White House Conference. And certainly, the Commission's four major program areas—Access to Information; Improving Library and Information Services to Meet Changing Needs; Information Technology and Productivity; and, Policy, Planning, and Advice—are all supportive of White House Conference resolutions.

International activities

The White House Conference addressed international library and information problems in resolutions C1, E1, and E2. The Commission has initiated a number of projects to insure active involvement of the United States in international library/information programs. Perhaps the most important, and surely the most sensitive project, concerned the future of the U.S. involvement in UNESCO. Recognizing the need to be prepared to continue certain international relationships should the United States withdraw from UNESCO, the State Department requested NCLIS to prepare alternative mechanisms to further international programs. Working with the U.S. National Committee for UNESCO/PGI, NCLIS developed a document proposing alternatives and indicating where no alternatives exist. The Commission will continue to work with the State Department to expand U.S. participation in international library/information archival programs.

Public/private sector interaction

Responding to White House Conference resolutions C1 and C4, the discussion document resulting from the work of the Public/Private Sector Relations Task Force is a major contribution to the debate over the appropriate roles of the public and private sectors in providing information. The seven principles of this report have been repeatedly cited as the basis of decisions and policy recommendations by numerous groups and individuals. Two major federal agencies, the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Joint Committee on Printing, have publicly discussed federal information policy which generated a broad range of responses. But central to practically everyone's concerns is an appropriate relationship between the two sectors in information provision.

Technology & productivity

Perhaps the most compelling topic in the library/information arena is the role of technology in access to information. It was addressed in White House Conference resolutions C4 and C10. The ALA Commission on Freedom and Equality of Access to Information draft report is primarily concerned with this issue. NCLIS was asked to assist the White House Conference on Productivity and helped place emphasis in the conference on the importance of information resources management. NCLIS has published one article, "U.S. Population Characteristics: Implications for Libraries," *Wilson Library Bulletin*, September 1984, and will publish two more this year concerning information technology and productivity. We fully recognize that information technology is a driving force that critically affects meeting user needs for library/information services.

Statistics and fees

White House Conference resolutions A3 and A11 dealt with statistics and fees.

Library Statistics: Libraries have always lacked good statistical data for planning and other purposes. NCLIS is working closely with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to facilitate publication of timely and informative surveys for the library and information community. The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) has been especially helpful in encouraging state librarians to provide the needed data to NCES.

The Role of Fees in Supporting Library and Information Services in Public and Academic Libraries: Again the Commission is tackling a "hot" topic. During the discussion of three of the recommendations from *Library and Information Services to Cultural Minorities* related to fees, the Commission raised questions concerning the extent to which fees are charged and for what services. Surprisingly, information to answer those questions was not readily available. With the financial assistance people"—to new levels of commitment. I became so involved in what I call the "White House Conference Process"—constant reassessment of and new efforts toward meeting user needs—that I accepted a second term as Chairman of the Commission. I agreed to a second term in order to work on implementing as many of the White House Conference Resolutions as possible, and especially to help Congress revise and improve the Library Services and Construction Act. Having a terrific conference is one thing; achieving legislative implementation is quite another. I am proud of the Commission's accomplishments toward reaching that goal during my Chairmanship and also during that of Elinor Hashim, my successor.

NCLIS leadership role

NCLIS has accomplished or is currently working toward the accomplishment of programs related to almost half of the 64 White House Conference Resolutions. Although only four resolutions mention the Commission by name, we have taken responsibility for monitoring and encouraging federal agency implemention of appropriate resolutions, we have worked diligently with the Congress to help draft and enact needed legislation, and we have worked in many other areas that are responsive to the needs expressed at the White House Conference.

Our progress on the four resolutions directed to NCLIS may be summarized as follows: Two resolutions (F1 & F5 at the Conference) asked NCLIS to create WHCLIST and to assist that citizen group to implement the White House Conference resolutions. They are done and ongoing. Neither President Carter nor President Reagan has appointed a youth to the Commission to date, as a third resolution (F2) directed at NCLIS recommended. Resolution (F6), the fourth directed at NCLIS, asked the Commission to establish a task force on national information policy. Studying and making recommendations for national information policies is of primary concern to the Commission and has been one of the Commission's top priorities for fiscal years 1985 and 1986.

Eleven federal agencies are working toward the accomplishments of another 18 White House Conference resolutions. Two major achievements are the development and acceptance of the national library symbol and the Library of Congress' mass deacidification and optical disk storage preservation projects. The Commission's work with Congress is discussed in the next section.

In its own program activities, the Commission continues to work toward implementing the White House Conference resolutions. The following brief project summaries illustrate some NCLIS efforts and accomplishments. The first five areas follow roughly the five major themes of the 1979 White House Conference.

Needs of the underserved

Among the White House Conference Resolutions relating to this theme and impacted by NCLIS programs are A1, A3, A4, A5, A6, A10, B2, B10, C5, D2, D4.

Library and Information Services to Cultural Minorities: NCLIS published the report of its Task Force on Library and Information Services to Cultural Minorities in 1983—carrying on with unfinished work from the White House Conference. There is much to be done here, the most important of which is for the Commission and the library/information community to join forces to carry out the report's recommendations. American Library Association President E.J. Josey (who also chaired this task force) has already started the process of determining what action ALA should take.

> *" . . .the single most important result . . . of the White House Conference was . . . the 1984 amendments to the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) . . . Typically, one federal dollar has been matched by $20 at the state and local level"*

Adult Literacy: Latest estimates indicate that 27 million American adults are functionally illiterate. This critical national problem has been a personal concern for many years. The Commission is a member of the Executive Committee of ALA's Coalition for Literacy which has launched a nationwide campaign to promote volunteer literacy programs in libraries. In collaboration with the Army Human Engineering Laboratory of the Department of Defense, NCLIS has established two demonstration sites to determine whether computer technology designed to instruct military recruits who lack basic reading skills can be used in volunteer literacy programs based in public libraries. We have also worked with Mrs. George Bush in this area.

Library and Information Services for Older Adults: The Commission's mandate (Public Law 91-345) specifies that we must be concerned about the provision of library and information services to the nation's elderly. Vice Chairman Bessie Moore has been singularly effective at raising the consciousness levels of the Commission to respond to that part of our mandate. A major NCLIS priority is to continue our increasingly successful efforts to link service providers to the elderly with the library and information service providers and to convince this country's older adults that libraries can fill the special information needs of the aging.

The National Rural Library/Information Services Development Program: During the past four years the Commission has devoted significant effort to the development of an active rural program, the purpose of which is to address the special informational needs of rural America. On July 21, 1982, a "Joint Congressional Hearing on the Changing Information Needs of Rural America: the Role of Libraries and Information Technology" was held, coordinated through Commission efforts. The Hearing, cochaired by Senator Mark Andrews (R-North Dakota) and Representative George E. Brown, Jr. (D-California), focused Congressional and public attention, perhaps for the first time, on the information needs of the nation's rural areas and the importance of doing something to meet these needs. The Hearing's report has been copublished by the Commission and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Margaret Warden of Montana has been the chief champion of rural library services on the Commission. Within the next several months, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will probably establish a National Advisory Board on Rural Information Needs, thus creating a locus of interests and concern within a major agency for library and information services to rural citizens.

Community Information and Referral Services (CI&R): Under the leadership of Commissioner Clara Jones, who had initiated the first major CI&R program in a large public library (Detroit), NCLIS published the report of its CI&R Task Force in 1983. This report showed how much can be done to of the Council on Library Resources, NCLIS has completed a study on the role of fees in supporting library and information services in public and academic libraries.

Relationship with WHCLIST

While NCLIS may be the primary implementor of the White House Conference resolutions at the national level, it is the remarkable White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST) that is the driving force behind the many improvements in library/information services throughout the states. White House Conference resolutions F1, F3, and F5 addressed the relationship of NCLIS and WHCLIST. I feel privileged to have worked with this dedicated group of people who have accomplished so much. The Commission is proud to have helped them promote the adoption of the national library symbol, especially as an information sign on federal, state, and local highways.

LSCA as amended

Over the past few years, the Commission has provided technical assistance to the Congress on the reauthorization of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) by gathering information from members of the library/information community regarding their needs and ideas for the new legislation. NCLIS assisted the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education with a series of hearings held across the country, during which more than 200 witnesses testified on the needs of libraries for federal assistance and encouragement through LSCA. The Commission also assisted the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities with their hearings.

The new law, which includes a number of specifications recommended by the Commission, adds increased emphasis to serving the elderly, provides further encouragement for resource sharing among different types of libraries, authorizes funding directly to Indian tribes in a new Title IV, adds a new Title V for funding of foreign language materials, and authorizes funding of library literacy programs in a new Title VI.

As the Commission worked with Congress on the reauthorization of LSCA, we urged that the recommendations of the White House Conference be included in the law. I am pleased to report that 22 (A3-6, A10-12; B2, 3, 9, 10; C2, 5, 7, 13, 15, 18; D1-4; E4) of the 64 resolutions are at least partially addressed by the new LSCA. There are ten major concepts that NCLIS pushed to have included in the law. I list them in four categories.

I. Funding:

1) The funding level of LSCA will be set one year in advance of the appropriation. This provision allows grantees sufficient time for good program planning.

2) States may reduce their funding of institutional library services as federal funds decrease. Many states have reduced the number of institutionalized individuals yet still had to provide the same level of library services in order to receive funds under LSCA.

3) LSCA funds may be used for renovation, as well as construction, such as to provide appropriate technological systems in libraries. Libraries need to keep up with rapidly changing information technologies.

4) Libraries participating in resource sharing activities may be reimbursed for their expenses in loaning materials to public libraries.

II. State Services:

5) State programs are to be directed toward eventual compliance with a new statewide resource sharing plan.

"Whatever progress we [NCLIS] have made . . . in no way diminishes the compelling need for a continuing 'needs assessment process.' The White House Conference process . . . leads to the recommending of public policy and programs through a systematic assessment of public needs. It is truly the democratic process at work"

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6) States have more discretion in determining the most critical library and information needs of their residents and how they may best be served through the use of LSCA funds.

III. Resource Sharing:

7) The concept of resource sharing has been added to interlibrary cooperation. The focus is now more on meeting user needs than institutional needs.

IV. Special Constituencies and Programs:

8) A new Title IV, Library Services to Indian Tribes, recognizes that most Indian tribes have received little or no LSCA funding. Practically all of the concepts in the National Indian Omnibus Library Bill, White House Conference Resolution D2, are included here.

9) The former Title IV, Older Readers Services, is fully incorporated in Title I, Library Services. Moving Older Readers Services to Title I puts greater emphasis on meeting the library and information needs of the elderly and allows funding which it did not have under Title IV.

10) A new Title VI provides funds for library literacy programs.

Although there are no barriers in the current LSCA to using new technology to enhance library services, everything possible should be done to encourage libraries to take advantage of the most appropriate technologies for meeting user needs. My major disappointment with the amendments to LSCA is that the necessary marriage of new technologies with library and information services is not emphasized as much as I felt it could be. NCLIS had hoped that the Congress would accept a new name for the legislation—The Library Services and Technology Act.

The WHC process

Whatever progress we have made over the past five years in "bringing information to people" in no way diminishes the compelling need for a continuing "needs assessment process." The White House Conference process at its best leads to the recommending of public policy and programs through a systematic assessment of public needs. It is truly the democratic process at work.

How much we have accomplished in just five years! And how wise the delegates were to create their own follow-up mechanism—WHCLIST. Together we see significant progress toward the implementation of most of the 64 resolutions. Now, we must look ahead. What is the next milestone in our continuous needs assessment process? A 1989 conference is an obvious answer. WHCLIST and NCLIS have already started planning for this event. I cannot say what the structure or content of the next conference will be, but I am sure its focal point will again be how better to meet the library/information service needs of users . . . in short, how to bring information and knowledge to people.

Planning the next
White House Conference . . .

Looking Toward 1989

By Elinor M. Hashim

A LITTLE OVER five years ago, representatives of the library/information community came together for the largest and most successful White House Conference ever. Outstanding progress has been made toward implementing the 64 resolutions from the 1979 Conference. Charles Benton and Barbara Cooper have described some of these achievements. What we have accomplished together during the past five years is significant, but much work lies ahead.

As we complete the agenda we set for ourselves in 1979, we must think again about shaping our future. Rapidly changing technologies and institutional responsibilities plus greater and more sophisticated user needs make this necessary. In addition, a specific resolution from the 1979 conference stated that "a White House or a Federal Conference on Library andInformation Services be held every decade to establish the national information goals and priorities for the next decade, to assure effective transfer of knowledge to the citizenry, and to accomplish this goal in light of accelerated changes in information technology and practices." We know from past experience that it is not too soon to begin planning.

In response to a 1983 WHCLIST resolution NCLIS passed a resolution on July 10, 1984 noting that it had previously endorsed the WHCLIST Resolution calling for a national conference each decade, and stating that we would appoint a Preliminary Conference Design Group for a 1989 conference in fiscal 1985. The Commission also agreed to request a commitment by the President and Congress in the planning and conduct of the 1989 national conference.

Conference plans & planners

Consultation with various representatives of the library/information community revealed a consensus that members of the Preliminary Conference Design Group should represent federal, state, and local constituencies. Accordingly, I named the federal representatives, the Chair of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies named the state representatives, and the WHCLIST Chair named the local representatives listed below:

Federal (Members of NCLIS):

Gordon Ambach (New York), President, Council of Chief State School Officers; Former member, committee of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHC); President, University of the State of New York.

Daniel Carter (Texas), Former Member, Information Community Advisory Committee to the WHC; Member of the Information Industry Association and the American Society for Information Science.

Byron Leeds (New Jersey), Post Graphics, Inc.

Margaret Phelan (Kansas), Phelan Business Research, Librarian.

Charles Benton (Illinois), *Ex Officio*; Former Chairman, White House Conference and NCLIS.

State (COSLA members):

Wayne Johnson (Wyoming), Member, COSLA/NCLIS Liaison Committee; Member Western Council of State Librarians.

Patricia Klinck (Vermont), Chair, COSLA Legislation Committee; Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast (COSLINE).

Bridget Lamont (Illinois), Chair, COSLA/NCLIS Liaison Committee.

Joseph Shubert (New York), Chair, COSLA Liaison Committee to Department of Education; Former Member, White House Conference Advisory Committee; Former Chair, ALA

Elinor M. Hashim is Chairperson of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science in Washington

Task Force on Excellence in Education; Member COSLINE.

Local (WHCLIST members):

Barbara Cooper (Florida), Chair, WHCLIST; Lay delegate to the White House Conference.

Bruce Daniels (Rhode Island), Vice Chair, WHCLIST.

Jule Shipman (Pennsylvania), Coordinator of Regional Representatives, WHCLIST; Lay Delegate to the White House Conference.

Lotsee Smith (Texas), Comanche Indian; Assoc. Prof., School of Library Science, Texas Womens University; Regional WHCLIST Representative for American Indians.

Amanda Williams (California), former president of the Board of Trustees of the Berkeley Public Library; California Representative to WHCLIST, and lay delegate to the 1979 White House Conference.

William Asp (Minnesota), WHCLIST Chair Emeritus and former COSLA Chair will chair the Preliminary Conference Design Group. He convened its first meeting in Washington, D.C. during National Library Week. The group is charged with preparing a report which will include four elements:

1) They will make recommendations on the kinds of appointments that should be made by the President, Senate, House of Representatives and NCLIS to the 28-member Conference Advisory Committee taking into consideration minority representation and geographic distribution.

2) They will develop a preliminary conference design that will recommend the scope and focus of the conference.

3) They will suggest options for financing the conference.

4) They will complete initial planning for the schedule of events that should precede the Conference.

The Preliminary Conference Design Group will consult with current and former NCLIS members; former members of the White House Conference Advisory Committee and Staff; representatives of the major national library and information associations; and the leadership of the Senate, House of Representatives, and the Executive Office of the President in preparing the report. We expect this report to be presented to the Commission at its December, 1985 meeting.

In addition to convening a Preliminary Conference Design Group, NCLIS has also responded to a request from the Congress to assist in drafting legislation for a 1989 White House Conference. The Commission has collected (and transmitted to the Congress) recommendations for changes in the enabling act of the 1979 White House Conference from the library and information community. These recommendations, it is hoped, will be incorporated into the enabling act for the 1989 Conference.

Senator Claiborne Pell (Rhode Island) and Representative William D. Ford (Michigan) introduced bills during National Library Week calling for a 1989 White House Conference. Later this year, hearings will be held to discuss the provisions in both bills.

The Commission is pleased with progress to date on planning for a 1989 conference, and proud of its accomplishments in assisting to implement the resolutions of the 1979 conference. Most important, NCLIS is continuing to meet its commitment to what Charles Benton calls "the White House Conference Process." The current NCLIS programs focus on defining a broad range of user needs and on recommending public policy to meet those needs. We are confident that this process will grow stronger and be renewed at our second conference in 1989.

Why Plan for a 1989 White House Conference Now?

Selected Comments from Members of the Preliminary Conference Design Group:

"The 1989 White House Conference will enable us to continue where the 1979 Conference left off. We need not only to continue the programs which developed from the 1979 conference, we need to deal with the end of this century and look forward to the 21st Century. This is our opportunity for planning on how to meet the technology which is rapidly developing."—*Byron Leeds, Flanders, New Jersey, Post Graphics, Inc., NCLIS Commissioner*

* * *

"The combination of new technology, new forms of information, and the greater need for it in all areas of our lives makes it appropriate to begin plans for a 1989 White House Conference. At the 1979 Conference, we determined the state of the art and planned for the 80s. It is time now to assess the progress we've made in the last decade, the changes in our information world, the increased demand for information, and the continued need to reach even larger segments of the population. It is time now to prepare for the 90s and planning for this conference is a project in itself."—*Peggy Phelan, Shawnee Mission, Kansas; President, Phelan Business Research; NCLIS Commissioner; Librarian*

* * *

"Community speakouts, governors conferences, and the 1979 White House Conference itself opened new doors to libraries. Professionals and concerned citizens united in their goal of making information accessible to all the people and increased public awareness of what libraries offer. My own work on local, state, and federal levels, though providing gratifying evidence of progress in funding and enhancement of resources and services, indicates that much remains to be done. A new breed of technology is developing and a new generation of library users is growing up. A 1989 White House Conference is an important instrument to build on what has been accomplished in order to meet the information needs of the future."—*Jule M. Shipman, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Coordinator of the WHCLIST Regional Representatives; First President of Pennsylvania Citizens for Public Libraries; past president of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters; former Trustee and Treasurer of the Bethlehem Public Library*

* * *

"The future for libraries is a blend of new technology, traditional programs, and traditional print. The challenge to librarians in the future is to mix these as needed in a responsible manner to answer the increasingly varied needs of our citizens. There will be local, state, multi-state regional, and national responsibilities in these areas. However, defining and serving the needs of local library users must be the major responsibility of the local clientele and the local librarians who serve them, not necessarily those at the state or national level.

"If we have a 1989 White House or National Conference, I would hope that it would focus on national responsibilities and be more narrow in scope than the 1979 Conference. The 1979 Conference was productive. Unfortunately some may concentrate on criticisms, but, indeed, much was accomplished that was positive. We need to plan carefully in order to prevent the 1989 Conference from becoming a resolutions factory trying to cover all aspects in all areas. The state and local meetings should define their own responsibilities. We should focus on describing a national level agenda."—*Wayne Johnson, Cheyenne Wyoming; Member COSLA/NCLIS Liaison Committee; Member, Western Council of State Librarians*

"TOWARDS 1989"

WHCLIST:
A View from the States

By Barbara Cooper

IN TWO resolutions at the White House Conference, the delegates defined a method for implementing the 62 others: set up an *ad hoc* committee of one lay and one professional member from each state, territorial, or special delegation to the Conference; and have the National Commission convene it and assist it to plan, implement, and follow up on the resolutions. As they did at many state conferences, the delegates so believed in the value of their work that they envisioned the vehicle to carry it out. One year later the *ad hoc* "committee of 118" met in Minneapolis under the auspices of NCLIS and its committee chaired by Commissioner Frances Naftalin. Since then, the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST) has met each September and will meet again September 14-16, 1985, in Princeton, New Jersey.

WHCLIST has given Charles Benton a special award for his long-term support. Very helpful assistance has been forthcoming from NCLIS Chair Elinor Hashim, Commissioners Bessie Moore and Margaret Warden, Executive Director Toni Carbo Bearman, and especially Associate Director Mary Alice Hedge Reszetar. It has come about as the delegates desired. WHCLIST has remained independently governed and financed by dues and gifts. The chair is a layperson, as are more than half of its members. (Some of the library-related delegates are trustees.) The vice chair is a library professional, Bruce Daniels, deputy director of the Rhode Island State Library. Don Wright of Evanston, formerly served as vice chair. William Asp, Minnesota State Librarian, is the exception: having served as the first vice chair and the second chair, he has been instrumental in bringing vital support from the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies. Every state has slots for two delegates, one lay and one professional. In April there were 108 delegates, with states being urged to fill the ten vacancies. Several years ago a category of associate membership was created for those who want to support WHCLIST's mission; most states are represented.

The process

As important as it is to implement the resolutions of the 1979 White House Conference, we need to keep in mind the unique nature of the process over many years. While each state and territory had its own method of involving the grass roots in state pre-conferences, thousands of lay people were drawn into a new partnership with librarians. They became believers in libraries. They became Friends of Libraries, trustees, LSCA advisory council members, state legislators, and local officials. The culminating national conference process also developed willing lay leaders.

This process was remarkable not only in the field of library service, but unusual in any field. The introduction by Senator Claiborne Pell (Rhode Island) and Congressman William D. Ford (Michigan) of legislation calling for a second conference in 1989 offers us a "hook" to engage again in the grass roots process of orientation and consultation in order to deal with the future. This time WHCLIST is available for a role in promoting it. More than one-third of its members have testified before committees of Congress about meeting the needs of people for knowledge and information.

A second conference?

Why should the library community go through the long enterprise of having a second national conference, preceded by state conferences? WHCLIST will try to answer this with two publications in 1985. The first is ready, a five-year review of progress made toward implementation of the 1979 resolutions. For WHCLIST's meeting last year, Asp, Reszetar, and Daniels worked with Eileen Cooke and Carol Henderson of the ALA Washington Office to collect all known examples of implementation. Input was requested from ALA units and from the agencies and associations called upon for action.

This five-year review is impressive and inspiring. The original resolutions are still very much alive, and many issues are of immediate concern. WHCLIST's Princeton meeting will provide an early forum for discussion of possible future issues, at the time when NCLIS's Preliminary Conference Design Group is doing its work. Alice Ihrig, consultant to many states for their pre-White House conferences, is preparing another publication for WHCLIST, a brochure explaining to the general public and to legislators what went on and why the second conference is needed.

The coalition

The heart of WHCLIST is the an-

Barbara Cooper is Chair, White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce nual meeting, where a group of its size can get at issues with vigor. In 1982 the issue was "coalition-building." With the help of Joan Collett of the St. Louis Public Library, WHCLIST initiated a survey of its membership's memberships, which is updated yearly. The variety of these connections proved impressive. Aside from those related to libraries, delegates belong to more than 300 organizations including the PTA, League of Women Voters, bar associations, chambers of commerce and economic development councils, political parties, black caucuses, church and civic groups, and those supporting the arts and humanities.

Laura Chodos, WHCLIST chair from 1982 to 1984, says, "coalitions begin at home—right in the neighborhood." The WHCLIST concept is that implementation has to come in the states and localities as well as on the national scene. Chodos' theme for 1984, "Toward a Nation of Readers," gave delegates the background to go back to their states and communities and stimulate the formation of coalitions working for literacy, which she regards as a "moral imperative." California and Florida are among the states that now have formed literacy coalitions.

Voting sessions on action issues are yeasty parts of annual meetings. When WHCLIST met in Cheyenne in 1983, a plan was developed to get state and national political parties to include in their platforms a 200-word statement on libraries, literacy, and their importance to economic development. In 1984 delegates called for a national taskforce to address implementation of "Realities" and "Alliance for Excellence."

Virginia Mathews, one of two WHCLIST delegates representing Native Americans, carried this message to ALA President E.J. Josey, who appointed her as one of three members of the Coordinating Committee on Realities and Alliance for Excellence (CCRAX). During the year, Mathews and others report on their work in the WHCLIST newsletter and in monthly meetings of the WHCLIST Steering Committee by conference call.

Report from the States

Progress on implementing resolutions is charted by WHCLIST in the annual *Report from the States*. NCLIS requested the first edition as a working paper for the 1980 organizational meeting. Since 1981 it has been produced by New York State Regent Chodos with substantial assistance from Joseph Shubert and the New York State Library staff. These are not statistical exercises; they contain insights into the uneven progress of follow-up activities such as new legislation, public awareness campaigns, statewide citizens' councils, and the expansion of services. They also stand as records of the accomplishments of state library agencies and other institutions in effecting some of the changes forecast by the White House and state conferences, and by early NCLIS studies. The grass roots process of examining such complicated "turf" topics as interlibrary cooperation, multitype systems, and universal library cards has helped foster later acceptance and legal adoption.

COSLINE

In August 1984, WHCLIST's Robert Case, library director in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, reviewed five years of annual reports for a meeting of the Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast. The organizer of the meeting, New Jersey State Librarian Barara Weaver, replicated WHCLIST's Cheyenne conference, which focused on the benefits of statewide citizens' councils. COSLINE's 11 sponsors brought from their states over 100 people who might help establish such groups. Case, active in Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries, said, "we often forget that a library advocate constituency had been developed in the conference process."

WHCLIST has reports of statewide groups from 39 states and two territories, having been organized since the 1979 White House Conference. (Accurate information awaits a survey this year by Friends of Libraries USA.) Most are concerned with public awareness and advocacy, and stimulating vigorous local Friends of the Library. Some administer grants as high as $100,000 from federal, state, and private funding sources. After testing the waters gingerly, many state librarians have developed respect for the ability of these groups to tackle sizeable projects and give high visibility to library issues, that helps the state library in its work.

Statewide councils

The White House Conference recommendations on public awareness were particularly strong on raising the low profile of libraries in communities and in the Nation. Rhode Island's Coalition of Library Advocates recently staged its official incorporation at a champagne reception in the Governor's chambers. As the guest speaker, the Governor expressed his support for libraries. COLA worked with the state library to create the earliest formal gathering of educators, librarians, and others to consider applying the recommendations of "Realities" and "Alliance for Excellence" within the state.

The Governor of Pennsylvania chose to announce a new plan, "Access Pennsylvania," at the time of the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries. Part of this bill would initiate a statewide library card system which would allow every citizen to use every publicly-supported library in the state. This relates directly to resolutions on access.

Alabama's advocacy efforts have been strengthened because a White House Conference delegate was committed to organizing a statewide Friends group that raises public awareness and funds with a golf tournament. Alabama's reports show increases in per capita state aid. They also show that the state agency is one of very few having a specific PR staff position.

Neighboring Florida chose its citizens group, the Council for Florida Libraries, to promote the priority resolution of its state conference—public awareness. A professionally-directed multimedia campaign promoted services to the public and to business. An added benefit was improved local expertise and interest in community relations activities through local application of state PR materials.

One 1979 White House Conference resolution called for the involvement of citizens in "informing the public about existing library and information services which are needed but not available." Citizens need experience and confidence to do this. The Illinois State Library helped the Illinois Coalition of Library Advocates, led by White House Conference lay delegates, create a statewide speakers bureau of citizens who could talk well about libraries.

The need for a library symbol was also brought out in a 1979 resolution. The development and use of the library symbol in public awareness projects has become widespread. Its recent clearance for use on federal highways is only a reinforcement of enthusiastic adoption that had occurred earlier within the states.

The number of state "library legislative days" has been increasing. There are remarkable success stories at the local and state level in passing bills for networking, multitype cooperation, confidentiality of library records, and construction funds. Librarians, trustees, Friends of the Library, and citizens work together for their passage, just as they do within WHCLIST.

Copies of the *Report from the States* are available from WHCLIST. Those who were involved in the 1979 White House Conference may now see it in perspective as a national "planning process," needing evaluation and updating. The final resolutions have become goals and objectives. They were arrived at in a unique partnership with citizens, and many of the participants remain dedicated to continuing the process.

Senator STAFFORD. Thank you all very much for your testimony. I begin to get the impression that you support holding another White House Conference.

Since Senator Pell and other Members of the Committee cannot be here, they likely may have some questions with respect to your testimony and the full statements which will be part of the record. So I would reserve to them and to myself an opportunity to submit questions to you in writing, if that is agreeable, to be answered at your early convenience.

I have to say now that since the next scheduled roll call has begun that we are going to have to stand in recess until the Senator from Vermont can get over and vote and get back here.

So the Committee is recessed subject to the call of the Chair.

[Recess.]

Senator STAFFORD. The third panel will consist of Mr. Alexander V. Nole, Treasurer of the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, from Wolcott, Connecticut; Mrs. Joan Ress Reeves, Chair of the Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates, Providence, Rhode Island; Dr. Christian Vernon, Chair of the American Library Association Legislation Committee, from Yorktown, Virginia; and Dr. Glen Wilde, Associate Dean, Extension and Life Span Learning, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Utah State University, Logan, Utah.

I am sure, Mrs. Reeves, that Senator Pell regrets that he is not able to be here. Debate is going on to discuss a series of major resolutions in front of the Senate, affecting our foreign policy, and that is why he cannot be here unless the third vote occurs very shortly.

So, Dr. Vernon, if there is no objection we will hear from you first. We understand you have a time problem. And let me remind you that on this infernal machine here, you get five minutes—about four and a half on green, then the yellow, and then the bell rings.

Your full statements will appear in the record as if read.

So with no further ado, Dr. Vernon, we would be pleased to hear from you.

STATEMENT OF DR. CHRISTIE VERNON, CHAIR, AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE, YORKTOWN, VA; JOAN RESS REEVES, CHAIR, RHODE ISLAND COALITION OF LIBRARY ADVOCATES, PROVIDENCE, RI; ALEXANDER V. NOLE, TREASURER, ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT LIBRARY BOARDS, WOLCOTT, CT, AND DR. GLEN WILDE, ASSOCIATE DEAN, EXTENSION AND LIFE SPAN LEARNING, COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY, LOGAN, UT

Dr. VERNON. Thank you very much.

My name is Christie Vernon. I am the librarian and a history teacher for Saint Leo College in Tidewater, Virginia, here in my capacity as Chair of the Committee on Legislation for ALA.

We really do appreciate this opportunity to express our strong support for S.J.Res. 26. The ALA has supported this activity since its inception. We participated in the previous conference, and we have helped to achieve the goals which were set in 1979. I have attached to my written testimony a copy of our resolution in support of the 1989 conference.

We have a broad legislative program which is ably implemented by Eileen Cook and our other staff in Washington, and we often appear before Congress asking for money or opposing policies. We feel this is right and proper, because when we work to strengthen libraries, we do work in the public interest.

But it is not often that we have an opportunity to come before you and to express and speak on behalf of all of our constituencies—all of the American people, those who use libraries and those who need libraries—and we feel that we have a special obligation today to affirm our position on behalf of a process, an opportunity which gives all American citizens a chance to participate and a voice in setting our information policies for the next decade and beyond.

There were also skeptics, Senator Stafford, when we proposed the first White House Conference, starting out in 1973. It does have impressive accomplishments, which Mr. Benton has outlined very well, and did involve 100,000 people. Many of the resolutions which were passed have been implemented or addressed in a high degree.

ALA worked to implement many of these things, and our particular accomplishments were the organizing of the Friends of Libraries USA, which now has over 600,000 members, 2,500 chapters, and is a great support and money-raising arm for libraries. We also founded the Coalition on Literacy, which produced a nationwide media campaign with a hot-line referral service and provided technical assistance to communities that wanted to do literacy programs.

Right now, we have a great opportunity to build on these successes, but this hour of our opportunity is also, as is often the case, the hour of our greatest danger. I characterize this danger as fragmentation, something which we see, looking at the national perspective.

First of all, we do have a proliferation of new technologies, but they are being adopted in a hodge-podge fashion. We are in some danger that our libraries will become a multitude of nations, speaking in a great many tongues. We must have national focus on coordination and the development of projects like the linked systems project begun by the Council on Library Resources, so that, as we say, these black boxes can talk to each other.

We are also in danger of fragmentation of our citizenry into information haves and have-nots. Secretary of Education Bennett, in First Lessons, has said that youngsters need ready access to books, and librarians should be an integral part of the instructional staff. He would like every child to have a library card by the end of this school year. And yet, if that were actually implemented, we would have a crisis of major proportions.

We do not have adequate library support in our schools. In fact, reality tells us that in Los Angeles, our second-largest city, there are only 20 schools out of 450 that have a full-time librarian.

The failure of our schools to supply sufficient learning resources and books is really very grave at this time.

We are also in some danger of fragmentation in our Federal library system. It begins to look like the coast of California, with great chunks eroding and falling into the ocean. Our Federal libraries are a great national resource. Some of them are the only sources of coverage in-depth in some knowledge areas. We have never achieved a Federal library policy until recently, when the Office of Management and Budget managed to very strongly and clearly declare what appears to be a Federal library policy, which is that libraries are commercial operations and are to be reviewed for contracting out.

This is not our idea of a proper Federal library policy, but it did get our attention, and this issue of contracting out is one that the citizens need to have a voice in discussing, because this "leadership" of the Federal government, of course, is spilling over into States and localities. They are beginning to contract out for services, to issue directives for fee collection and cost-recovery operations, and we are concerned that the citizens are not quite aware of the loss of capacity and flexibility and the potential loss of services in the future.

There are four questions I hope the Conference will address: What are the essential library information services in a technological world? How can we provide for the coordination of resource-sharing and fair distribution of costs? How can we bring an appreciative understanding of the centrality of library information services to the function of Government?

I want you to know that we have researched the facts and discovered that when they wrote the Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787, the first thing they did was a review of the literature. They sat down and read about all the forms of Government in human experience, distilled that through their intelligence, and came up with our Constitution. Without their private libraries and perhaps Dr. Franklin's library, as well, we would not have had our Constitution today.

We Librarians will bring this to your attention at every possible opportunity.

Senator Stafford, we want to thank you for your graciousness in coming here today and using your time, especially considering your position on the Conference. We really appreciate it. We hope that perhaps we will present you with something that will cause you to enlist.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Vernon follows:]

Statement of

Dr. Christie D. Vernon, Chair
Committee on Legislation
American Library Association

before the
Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities
of the
Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources

on
S.J. Res. 26, Calling for a White House Conference
on Library and Information Services

April 3, 1987

I am Christie Vernon, Librarian for the Tidewater Area (Virginia) Program for St. Leo College, and teacher in history and humanities. Today, I am representing the American Library Association as Chair of its Committee on Legislation. The Association appreciates this opportunity to support the White House Conference legislation.

The American Library Association is a nonprofit educational organization of nearly 44,000 librarians, library trustees and public-spirited citizens dedicated to the development of library and information services for all the American people.

Libraries are the most durable and enduring of all information institutions in this country. They are central to an informed citizenry from childhood through the highest research and intellectual endeavors of maturity. They bear the honorable burden of providing the first line of defense for intellectual freedom and the right of citizens to secure any information useful to them.

We are discharging a special obligation today, when we express strong support for Senate Joint Resolution 26 which will authorize a White House Conference on Library and Information Services. The original concept was first inspired by library trustees, the civic leaders throughout the country who have the fiscal responsibility for the nation's public libraries. ALA has supported this activity from its inception, participated in the first conference, and helped to achieve the goals set in 1979. I am attaching to this testimony a copy of our Resolution in support of the 1989 Conference, passed by the ALA Council in July 1985.

Our Association has a broad legislative program, but it is not often that we can speak to you on behalf of all of our constituents---which are your constituents as well---the people of the United States, of all ages and conditions, who use libraries and who need libraries. We have a concern, and a special obligation to tell the sponsors of this legislation how important it is that all library users, and those who are unserved and underserved, be provided the opportunity to voice their opinions on their information needs of the next decade and beyond.

ALA is an umbrella organization representing librarians, trustees, libraries---great and small, public and private---specialists, academicians, and interested private persons. But we do not have the resources to organize a grass roots process leading to a great national conference. So, we add our voice to those supporting this legislation so that a vehicle, and funding, may be provided and the people of America given an opportunity to recommend information policies leading to the 21st century.

There were skeptics when the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services was proposed, but the list of its accomplishments is impressive. It involved more than 100,000 people and at least 55 of the 64 resolutions which it produced have been acted on, in part or entirely.

The American Library Association developed a specific legislative program for WHCLIS implementation and made its recommendations a high priority: nineteen items were listed for action.

- We supported passage of the new Title IV of LSCA, which provides library resources to Native Americans.

- We worked for the WHCLIS recommendations on library networking and resource sharing and supported the increase in LSCA Title III (Interlibrary Cooperation) from $5 million to $12 million---an increase of 140 percent in 1981. In spite of Administration opposition, Congress has given continued support for this activity, and the appropriation was $18 million in FY '87.

- The increased visibility for libraries provided by WHCLIS has helped our work in staving off the proposed elimination of most federal support for libraries.

- The impact of WHCLIS, we believe, helped us influence the internal organization of the Department of Education, so that a Deputy Assistant Secretary was appointed to direct an Office of Libraries and Learning Technologies.

- The Friends of Libraries USA, an ALA affiliate, was established in June of 1979. They brought their first membership forms to WHCLIS and have shown great growth since then. More than 30 states have organized Friends groups. A survey in April 1986 showed 2,329 groups nationwide, with more than 600,000 members! They raised nearly $28 million in support of libraries in 1985 alone.

- ALA has addressed the telecommunication and networking issues so important to library database services, and lobbied to keep costs, escalated because of divestiture, at a reasonable level.

- The Coalition on Literacy, organized and coordinated by ALA, launched a three-year drive in 1984 to help America's estimated 27 million adult illiterates. It has three program objectives:

    1) to conduct a national public service advertising campaign which would stimulate local community interest and response;

    2) to provide a nationwide telephone hotline referral service which would link inquiries to local community literacy providers; and

    3) to provide technical assistance to communities seeking to develop literacy programs or to form local literacy coalitions.

- Because of the concern about the role of technology in creating or diminishing access to information, ALA commissioned a study on Freedom and Equality of Access to Information. Taking its observations into account, ALA is revising and updating its Federal Legislative Policy statement to reflect new issues raised by technological developments.

There is now an opportunity to build on our previous achievements. As is often the case, the hour of our opportunity is also the hour of our danger. As I see it, this danger can be characterized by an increasing fragmentation of our library services and institutions.

New technologies for automation and database development, while not inexpensive, are essential to the organization and growth of modern information services. These technologies are not standardized, and libraries are adopting them in a hodge-podge fashion. We are in some danger that our libraries will become a multitude of nations, speaking a variety of tongues. We need state and nationwide agreements and protocols which will make mutual conversation possible. One excellent example is the Linked Systems Project, begun in 1980 and funded by the Council on Library Resources. It is participated in by the Western Library Network, the Research Libraries Group, the Library of Congress and the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). Its purpose is to develop computer-to-computer links between systems to allow intersystem searching and sharing of records. The White House Conference will allow for a technological stock-taking and planning, so that this kind of effort can be expanded.

We face the fragmentation of our citizenry into information haves and have nots, a problem worsened by the large number of functionally illiterate individuals. There is a great national concern about the problem. Secretary of Education William Bennett, in his First Lessons: A Report on Elementary Education in America, states: "Youngsters need ready access to books....The librarian should be an integral part of the instructional staff....And children should belong to the public library....every child should obtain a library card---and use it."

ALA very strongly supports Secretary Bennett's goals. But we understand how limited the resources are, almost at crisis proportions in some cases. ALA's booklet, Realities (responding to A Nation at Risk), states: "The lack of libraries is especially severe in elementary schools. For example, in Los Angeles, our country's second largest city, in only twenty of the city's 450 elementary schools is there a full-time librarian." Since studies repeatedly indicate that the provision of books, the encouragement of reading, and the teaching of library skills are essential in producing literate young people, the failure of school systems (and school boards) to provide these services should be regarded as especially grave. Shortages of learning resources exist in high schools and colleges as well. If we are serious about the problem of literacy, we need a national assessment---a report card?---on libraries as well as in the area of subject accomplishments.

We are now in considerable danger of the fragmentation of our federal library system. It is eroding like the California coast---chunks falling into the water. In 1800, Thomas Jefferson's library formed the core collection of the Library of Congress. "By 1968, Federal libraries taken together had come to constitute a resource of national importance, some of them being the only library providing coverage in depth in a particular field of knowledge in the nation." (Dr. Richard H. Leach in Libraries at Large, 1969, as included in Senate hearings in 1973 on the first White House Conference.) There is no complete inventory of these libraries, and no general policy regarding them ever achieved. Perhaps the Office of Management and Budget has managed to do what no one has ever done before, state clearly and forcefully what appears to be our first articulated federal library policy. Unfortunately, OMB says that libraries are commercial operations and are to be reviewed for contracting out insofar as possible. The library community has to admit that OMB got our attention, and that we have since engaged in lively debate. ALA has taken a firm position against the contracting out of entire federal agency libraries.

This example is not lost on our states and localities, which often follow national "leadership." They are already contracting for some services, and libraries will no doubt be considered for this treatment. In our view, the library can no more be a profit-making organization than can a public school. But, local officials, under the illusion that better service can be obtained at lower cost, are apt to try it. We believe this will further lower standards of staffing and service, result in loss of flexibility and capacity, and the public will find themselves unable to secure services which they once took for granted.

In an effort to cut costs, local administrators are also resorting to the collection of fees and service on a "cost recovery" basis. The country is becoming a patchwork quilt of fee structures, and gradually the imposition of fees is widening the gap between those who can afford information and those who cannot. We need to evaluate the effect of these changes in funding and policy and create a public awareness of the values which are at stake, and the decisions which only the citizens can make.

We are increasingly fragmented by our demographic and cultural changes. In several areas of our country and segments of our population, our minorities are becoming our majorities. Libraries are trying to tailor client services to drastically changing age, race, and language patterns. How can the library, the traditional American self-help institution, promote the progress of new clients, help them learn and re-learn skills in order to be successful in the work force, and help them learn the essentials of citizenship?

In this year of the Constitutional Bicentennial, several polls have been published which indicate that our citizens know virtually nothing about the document which formed our government, and do not know how it differs from the Declaration of Independence. There is a terrible void in our people's information about government, accompanied by a similar void in their knowledge of their rights and functions as citizens. We depend on our youth and our new citizens to uphold our traditions and keep the flame of democracy alive. Libraries have always tried to help, by serving as community education centers, sponsoring events, study, and discussion about our history and government.

Many of these issues have federal policy implications. Consider the examples I have appended to my statement. The length of this list of issues, and the various ways in which they interact and affect libraries, show the need for broad-ranging and thoughtful policy discussions. The White House Conference process provides a splendid opportunity to discuss such issues in the context of strategic long-range planning to insure access for individuals' library and information needs as well as for intergovernmental resource sharing.

The foregoing thoughts which I have shared with you lead me to pose a series of questions which, I believe, encompass some of the major concerns of our profession today:

1. What are the essential library/information services in a technological world? What is information? To whom and why is it supplied? What will it cost us? How will it improve our economic vitality? How can it be applied for more effective education? These are questions being asked by state legislatures in their efforts to create prosperity and improve educational systems, just as we are asking them at the national level.

2. How can we provide for coordinated resource sharing and for a fair distribution of costs for it? Last year (1985-86) the OCLC system handled 2,709,139 online interlibrary loan transactions. This is up almost a million from 1983-84, and does not include mail and phone transactions. There is federal money to subsidize this sharing, and fees are charged. But I work with an agency that cannot pay fees,

and we are served as graciously as those who do pay. In addition, there is a Daedalian maze of fees and payments which we could never analyze; and a concern that the mechanisms for collecting payment may cost more than the payments received.

If we are willing to pay a state $100 million a year to be the repository of radioactive waste, surely we are able to contrive some means---some small token of our appreciation---to compensate states which already contain respositories of our intellectual treasures and are willing to share them, and enrich all our citizens thereby.

Sharing involves service to communities quite outside that for which the library was originally intended and funded, and we must enlarge our thinking to find practical ways to lighten the burden.

3. By what means can we bring an appreciative understanding of the centrality of library/information services to education and to the functions of government?

   An irresistible example of the lack of this understanding is the letter written by Mr. Frank Carlucci, then Acting Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, to the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee in July 1973. He writes, "...we think that a White House conference solely on the subject of libraries and information science would be too narrowly focused in terms of the prestige of such a conference and in terms of the considerable public expenditures necessary for such a conference. This is not to diminish the importance of libraries and information science but it does indicate that we believe that these subjects should be examined as a part of the broader issue of education."

   At hearings on the first White House Conference, the HEW objection was answered by the comment that we were dealing with our knowledge resources, the quality of American life, and the future of the country---and this seemed to be a broad enough subject.

4. How are we to develop a useful, if not detailed, consensus on our federal library system, including the roles of our three great national libraries, a consensus which puts primary emphasis on the government as our basic information provider, and the rights of citizens to access to information which they have developed and paid for?

This is the year of the Bicentennial of our Constitution. When the Founding Fathers closeted themselves in the statehouse in 1787---a very brave thing to do in a Philadelphia summer---their first act was a review of the literature. They gathered everything they could find on forms of government down through human history, analyzed, and reflected upon them. Then they chose those principles which seemed to them most appropriate for the government of a nation of free people and formed them into a document which has been the model for the world.

It is very comforting to me to reflect on this: We would not have had our remarkable Constitution, if the writers had not gone through their own libraries---and possibly the subscription library Benjamin Franklin had founded---absorbed the experience of the ages and processed it through their own intelligence. Our leaders of today could do well to reflect on the essential nature of information in the conduct of affairs and in the advancement of civilization. You can depend on the American Library Association to bring this idea to the forefront at every opportunity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the American Library Association, which strongly supports S.J. Res. 26. Mr. Chairman, I was impressed, as I looked into the history of the first White House Conference, that you not only introduced the original legislation but presided at the 1973 hearing. Senator Pell, ALA deeply appreciates your leadership and your enduring support of libraries and federal library programs throughout these intervening years.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT I

RESOLUTION ON 1989 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, The 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services served as a focal point for planning library and information services for the succeeding decade; and

WHEREAS, There is an urgent need now to consider future directions for library and information services; and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has supported legislation for a 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services; and

WHEREAS, Senator Claiborne Pell and Representative William Ford have introduced legislation for a 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association express deep appreciation to Senator Pell and to Congressman Ford for their leadership in introducing S. J. Res 112 and H. J. Res. 224; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge other Senators and Representatives to join as co-sponsors of this legislation.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Chicago, Illinois
July 10, 1985
(Council Document #47.5)

ATTACHMENT II

IMPACT ON LIBRARIES OF FEDERAL BUDGET AND POLICY DECISIONS AND PROPOSALS

Impact of Proposed Termination of Library Programs. Federal library programs administered by the Department of Education have an impressive and continuing history of accomplishments. They have extended public library facilities and service to areas where they were nonexistent or inadequate; helped reach those on Indian reservations, recent immigrants and refugees, the illiterate, the disadvantaged and homebound, the handicapped, the elderly, and the institutionalized; encouraged interlibrary cooperation across city, county and state lines; made possible the adaptation of new technology; improved school and college library resources; made research library collections more widely known and available; recruited urgently needed minorities to the library field and enabled many of the most distinguished library educators to earn Ph.Ds.

The Administration has proposed elimination of all these programs for six years in a row. Congress has maintained strong bipartisan support for a modest federal role for libraries, for which we thank this Subcommittee, and all your congressional colleagues. However, six years of zero budgets, rescission proposals, and even illegal impoundment of funds have taken their toll, particularly for a current funded program such as the Library Services and Construction Act. States must make required plans for use of LSCA funds in advance, but while a zero budget request is pending, this is difficult. Under deficit pressures, will Congress reject the zero budget this year or not? Will the state have more to spend, or less?

Rescission Delays. When the Administration has a rescission proposal in the works, it leaves a "limbo" period between October when funds should be allocated to the states until January or February when the rescission request is sent to Congress, followed by a period for congressional review. Funds can be delayed for up to six months, again affecting the ability to plan and make the best use of federal funds. In 1982, a lawsuit by ten states was required to get funds released.

Flexibility Needed. To provide the most effective service, librarians often cross the boundaries between types of libraries---public, school, academic and special. The best way to improve public library services for a targeted group under LSCA I may be through use of an interlibrary cooperative project such as an areawide computerized database. Recently, however, auditors of LSCA funds have disallowed such efforts as an impermissible use of title I funds for title III purposes. It may be time for Congress to clarify the means by which title I priorities may be achieved.

Postal Revenue Forgone Threatened. For the third year, the Administration has proposed elimination of the federal funding which replaces revenue lost or "forgone" by the U. S. Postal Service so that some rates can be free (for the blind and visually handicapped) or reduced (preferred second-, third- and fourth-class rates for local newspapers, charitable and nonprofit groups, and libraries, schools and colleges). Without this funding, a two-pound library rate book package would increase 29 percent October 1, following three rate changes in 1986. Library film-sharing circuits, interlibrary loans, and books-by-mail programs to rural and isolated readers would be threatened.

Service to the Blind. Library service to the blind is heavily dependent on three federal programs. Free mail for the blind, financed through the federal postal revenue forgone appropriation, is used extensively by a network of libraries to get reading materials to the blind and visually handicapped. The Library of Congress administers the program at the federal end, with the cooperation of 160 regional and subregional libraries for the blind, most of them state funded, many supported with federal LSCA assistance. Almost 700,000 readers are served; 20 million recorded and braille books and magazines were circulated last year. This example shows the interrelationship of federal policies affecting library service, and how budget cuts proposed or passed in isolation could have a multiplier effect.

Library of Congress. Congress' library is also the nation's library. Its national library services provide the basis of common bibliographic description for many thousands of libraries. It pioneers in technical and standards development in the library field. It provides leadership and active participation in cooperative acquisitions, cataloging, and preservation projects. Its National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has already been mentioned.

A series of budget cuts left the Library in FY 1986 at 8 percent or $18.3 million below the previous year's funding. The resulting emergency affected not only Congress and researchers here in Washington, but libraries dependent on LC's services throughout the nation. Libraries require steady funding; permanent damage has been done to the Library of Congress. With congressional support it will recover, but only slowly and partially.

Loss of School Library Program. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act title II (funded from FY 1966-76) provided assistance for the acquisition of school library resources, textbooks and instructional materials. One of the major effects of this program was the establishment of stocked and staffed elementary school libraries in many schools which had none previously. A "small" consolidation, the ESEA IV-B program (funded in FY 1976-81) combined title II with educational equipment and guidance, counseling and testing, but still provided an estimated 20-30 percent of all funds spent on school library resources and instructional equipment. ESEA IV-B received $161 million in its last year of funding, FY '81. A "big" consolidation, the Education Consolidation and Improvement Act of 1981, combined ESEA IV-B with 31 other programs in a block grant. The effect of the block grant on school libraries has been very uneven, with some schools receiving more funds for libraries while others get none.

End of Revenue Sharing. General revenue sharing was neither reauthorized nor funded for FY '87. In FY '83, libraries received 1.65 percent of revenue sharing funds or $76 million. In West Virginia, 22 percent of local support of public libraries came from revenue sharing; in Pennsylvania it was 14 percent. This loss will be difficult to replace. Many other public libraries will be affected as localities search for services to cut to replace revenue sharing used for other services, such as police and fire protection.

Brittle Books. Inexpensive paper developed in the mid-19th century made possible large scale distribution of publications, but the acid paper used since then deteriorates rapidly. About one-fourth of research library collections are at risk, that is, so embrittled that they will soon become useless.

The Library of Congress estimates that 77,000 volumes in its collection move from the "endangered" to "brittle" category each year. To save one-third of the titles at risk (or 3.3 million volumes over 20 years) would require about $384 million for preservation microfilming according to a recent report of the Council on Library Resources. Yet the very few federal programs assisting in preservation have regularly been proposed for elimination (the Higher Education Act title II-C research library grants and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission) or substantial cuts (the National Endowment for the Humanities).

Restrictions on Access to Government Information. A series of federal policy decisions in recent years have had the effect of restricting the amount of information collected or compiled by the federal government, the amount of such information published, and the amount disseminated. Various policy directives have caused agencies to cut back or discontinue such activities, making it more difficult for libraries to meet their users' needs.

OMB Circular A-130. Issued December 24, 1985, the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-130, Management of Federal Information Resources, is a significant presidential policy directive which will likely increase restrictions on public access and accelerate the trend to privatization of government information. A-130 allows dissemination only when required by law or necessary for proper performance of agency functions, and when it does not duplicate any current or potential private sector product or service. Agencies are to place maximum feasible reliance on the private sector for dissemination, which could easily lead to higher prices and selective rather than comprehensive coverage.

"Sensitive" Information. Recently the federal government has defined some unclassified information as "sensitive" for national security purposes and attempted to extend controls over who may have access to this information, including efforts to determine who is using which private databases and for what purposes. At least one library (State University of New York at Buffalo) was served with a subpoena by the FBI to divulge the nature of an online search request that had been performed in the library for a foreign student. At least six companies that develop private databases and/or provide access to databases have received visits from government officials asking for names of subscribers and a record of their usage of the information products. Although an October 1986 memorandum to tighten such controls was recently rescinded following protests, a 1984 presidential directive setting up the "sensitive" information category remains in effect.

At the same time that the Administration is trying to restrict foreign access to some U.S. public and private databases, it is proposing the contracting out of the National Technical Information Service, and allowing some federal agency libraries and information systems to be contracted out to U.S. subsidiaries of foreign firms.

NTIS Privatization. The Commerce Department's National Technical Information Service provides for the centralized collection, announcement, and dissemination of U.S. government-sponsored research and development reports and translations of foreign technical literature. The Office of Management and Budget plans to turn it over to a private contractor, despite a Commerce Department report on privatization which provided evidence that "extensive privatization presents substantial costs and risks for the government, for NTIS customers and for the information industry as a whole."

Privatization of Federal Libraries. The Administration's policy of contracting out to the private sector as many government activities as possible (OMB Circular A-76) is affecting the services of federal libraries. Libraries are on OMB's list of "commercial" activities and thus are especially vulnerable to being contracted out. In a two year period over 200 A-76 library actions took place, including the Departments of Transportation, Labor, Interior, Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Census. The libraries of the Housing and Urban Development Department, the Energy Department, and the Environmental Protection Agency have already been contracted out. However, libraries are not off-the-shelf products. They require personnel competencies likely to be sacrificed if contracted out, with consequent reductions in the productivity of government scientists, lawyers, administrators, and others.

Costs of Materials Going Up. Since 1967, when the average book and journal each cost about $8.00, the cost of printed materials has generally risen faster than the consumer price index. This is especially true of periodicals. If a library had the same acquisitions budget in 1985 as it had in 1967, it would be able to purchase only 15 percent of the periodicals it could have in 1967, or twice the inflation rate of the CPI. The average U.S. periodical cost $65 in 1986, an 8.9 percent increase in one year, way over the CPI of 1.9 percent. The price of the average U.S. hardcover book was $31.21 in 1986 and has stabilized in recent years. Libraries have tried to maintain their journal subscriptions, often at the expense of book purchases. A ten-year analysis of data from 84 research libraries indicates that while expenditures for books rose by 93 percent, and expenditures for serials rose by 155 percent, the number of volumes held by those libraries increased by only 31 percent.

Costs Higher to Libraries. It is common practice for publishers to charge a higher periodical subscription rate to libraries and institutions than to individuals. About 70 percent of the periodical titles most often ordered by libraries are available to them only at prices which may be from 10 to 100 percent more than the rates charged individuals. Beginning about 1980, British publishers began charging American libraries far higher prices than those in the UK or elsewhere in the world. Librarians continue to report significant increases each year in the cost of foreign subscriptions from various countries.

Technology Changing Nature of Materials. Technology can increase information access for users but also exerts cost pressures on libraries. There are now over 2,000 online databases provided through about 300 different online systems. Each database provides data and information, or citations to the literature of a certain field, or both. Unlike printed material on shelves, where the cost of acquiring and maintaining the information does not depend directly on the number of users, retrieving information from online databases costs money each time, even for the same information. Some material is now available only online. How to budget for these services, and whether to charge users are questions each library must answer. New technology such as CD-ROM shows promise, but also raises thorny intellectual property issues.

American Library Association, Washington Office, 202/547-4440. April 1987

Senator STAFFORD. Thank you very much. Whatever the decision of this Subcommittee is collectively, I expect I will live with it.

Dr. VERNON. Of course. Thank you.

Would you excuse me so that I might catch my plane?

Senator STAFFORD. We certainly will indeed.

Dr. VERNON. Thank you very much for hearing me first.

Senator STAFFORD. Now, if it is agreeable to the gentlemen, we will hear Mrs. Reeves next.

Mrs. REEVES. Thank you.

My name is Joan Ress Reeves. On the national level, I am Secretary of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Task Force, WHCLIST. Back home, I chair the Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates, which we call COLA—not to be confused with any other kind of COLA.

But most of all, I am a library user. I am not a librarian. I just love libraries, and spend most of my life trying to help them get the support they deserve. I do that because of the 1979 White House Conference.

Why do I think a second White House Conference is crucial? Let me tell you about the impact of the first Conference, held in 1979 thanks to legislation introduced by Senator Pell.

I feel that the most important outcome of both the State and the White House Conferences was a groundswell of public support for and awareness of library and information services across the country. The 1979 Conference resolved to perpetuate itself and established WHCLIST. We are a truly representative task force with one lay and one professional delegate from every State and Territory, plus State librarians and associate and institutional members.

We monitor the resolutions of the 1979 Conference and work toward a second Conference. We are a strong national network for library advocacy from the grassroots level to professional associations like the American Library Association and the new 38-member Federal Library and Information Center Committee Task Force.

We testify at local, State and Federal hearings. We share information. We publish newsletters and an annual "Report from the States." And we have been responsible for forming and encouraging local and Statewide friends and advocacy groups.

For the local Friends of Library groups founded before 1979, the White House Conference was a tremendous impetus. Many others were a direct result of the Conference, and you heard the terrific news of the Friends of Libraries USA study that shows a total of about 600,000 members of local and Statewide Friends groups, and $28 million raised.

Statewide advocacy groups like COLA also stem from the White House Conference. There are now 23; more are forming. COLA was a direct offshoot of the White House Conference and of WHCLIST.

We support libraries through education, public awareness, and the encouragement of local groups. We represent about 2,000 individuals and libraries in Rhode Island, including the members of professional library organizations and Friends of Library groups. Our membership grew 35 percent in 1986.

Our most stunning success was winning by 67.7 percent of the vote in November, '86, an amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution requiring the General Assembly to promote public libraries. Rhode Island is the second State to include libraries in its Constitution; Hawaii is the first.

We successfully urged the University of Rhode Island not to close its Library School. URI has the only public graduate library school in Northern New England and has trained 90 percent of Rhode Island's professional librarians.

We were the first Statewide library group to respond to the challenge of "Nation at Risk" when, in a 1984 conference, we explored "Libraries in the Future of Education." We have sent a report of that conference across the country, from Hawaii to Connecticut. An implementation committee is making literacy its top priority.

At COLA's third annual meeting this past February, Governor Edward DiPrete proclaimed 1987 "The Year of the Reader." At that meeting, a young black woman, surrounded by her husband and two children, told us how learning to read at a branch of the Providence Public Library through a Parent Literacy Program changed her life. Tommie did not use a lot of high-flown language in her brief talk, but she spoke so eloquently that the audience was moved to tears. For many people, this was their first exposure to the problems of illiteracy.

We need a second White House Conference to explore from a national perspective the role of library and information services in literacy, in democracy, and in productivity.

Senator Stafford, we feel that $5 million spent on a White House Conference is not $5 million taken away from books and services. That money will encourage such enthusiasm across the country that library advocates like us will make sure that the money for books and services is forthcoming, that libraries become a national priority.

We are grateful to Senator Pell for introducing this resolution to hold a second White House Conference. We need this Conference so that every child growing up in America may say, in the words of Senator Pell at the first Conference: "Remember, a book is a friend."

Thank you for letting me testify.

[The prepared statement of Mrs. Reeves follows:]

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARTS, EDUCATION, AND HUMANITIES ON SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

My name is Joan Ress Reeves. On the national level, I'm Secretary of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST). At home, I chair the Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates. I'm a trustee of the Providence Public Library; a member of the Board and former President of the Friends of its Rochambeau Branch. And I'm a member and former Chair of the State Advisory Council on Libraries, which advises the RI Department of State Library Services on the use of federal funds in the State.

But most of all, I'm a library user. I'm not a librarian; I just love libraries and spend most of my life trying to help them get the support they deserve.

Why do I think a second White House Conference on Library and Information Services is crucial? Let me tell you about the impact of the first Conference, held in 1979, thanks to legislation introduced by Senator Pell.

Like most lay delegates, when I joined the Steering Committee of the RI Governor's Conference in 1979, I didn't know an LSCA (Library Services and Construction Act) from a TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf). I thought a title was the name of a book. I knew little or nothing about the governance, the scope, the funding, and the issues facing library and information services.

The RI Governor's Conference was an eye-opener, for me and the other lay delegates and alternates. The 1979 White House Conference, where I joined over 800 elected delegates and alternates from around the United States, was even more of an eye-opener. It changed my life.

I learned, from my new friend from Nebraska, about the needs of remote rural libraries, open only part time and staffed, perhaps, by a high-school graduate. He learned about the problems of a large public library in a city with a declining tax base. We learned that access to library and information services is not just a matter of hours of service or wheelchair ramps. We learned about some of the devastating problems that hamper access: terrible isolation because of blindness, deafness, physical handicap, mental condition, cultural or economic factors, lack of education. We learned of the glorious potential of technology and telecommunications for providing access and opening up an infinite world of education, information, and recreation to all Americans.

We gained new and enormous respect for library professionals: for the breadth of their abilities as business executives operating under the most stringent budgets, as teachers of people of all ages, as politicians marshalling support for their cause, as psychologists and social workers, as well as practitioners of what we think of as traditional library roles of circulation, cataloguing, and the like.

Back in Rhode Island, I vowed to devote the next several years of my life to supporting library and information services. I know that many of my fellow lay delegates made the same decision. Many of us have become library trustees; many have founded local and statewide Friends' and advocacy groups. All of us have transformed the knowledge and enthusiasm we gained at the Conference to a commitment to library and information service.

The White House Conference adopted 64 resolutions; 55 have been at least partially implemented. We have seen increased state and federal funding of library and information services, particularly for interlibrary cooperation. We have seen new grant programs, new opportunities for continuing education. The most important result of the Conference was a groundswell of public awareness and public support of libraries across the country.

One of the 64 Conference resolutions established the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST), born in Minneapolis in the fall of 1980 under the auspices of the National Commission of Library and Information Science. The 1979 Conference was the first White House Conference to perpetuate itself.

WHCLIST continues to be a truly representative taskforce consisting of one lay and one professional delegate elected by each state, territory, or special delegation. It includes state librarians and associate and institutional members. We meet annually to monitor the resolutions of the 1979 Conference, to work toward a second White House Conference, and to act as a strong national network for grass-roots library advocacy.

WHCLIST has also established a cooperative network with professional library and information associations, from the American Library Association to small, highly specialized groups, many of whom have already expressed support of a second White House Conference. It has had a major impact on the establishment of a Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) Taskforce of 38 federal agencies working actively toward the Conference.

WHCLIST members are knowledgeable activists for libraries; we carry the message of the strengths and the needs of library and information services back to our home states. We testify at local, state, and federal hearings to improve funding and enhance services. We share information on advocacy, coalition building, literacy, and, most recently, the role of libraries in economic vitality. Our meetings renew our enthusiasm for supporting libraries as we share experiences, hear about others' successes, get a fresh view of what is going on across the country.

Besides our newsletters, through the generosity of the New York State Library and Gladys Ann Wells, Special Assistant to the NY State Librarian, we publish an annual "Report from the States," the results of a survey of state and territorial news, developments and plans for library service. (Attached.)

The formation and strengthening of local and statewide advocacy and Friends of Library groups is part of the groundswell of grass-roots support generated by the first White House Conference. Friends of Libraries USA, which promotes and shares information among Friends' groups nationwide, conducted a survey in 1985. The 2,300 Friends' groups responding reported a total membership of over 600,000; they raised almost $28,000,000 for libraries in 1985 alone.

There are now 23 statewide advocacy groups; four more are forming. Rhode Island's Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) is a direct offshoot of the 1979 Conference and of WHCLIST.

Shortly after the White House Conference, the RI delegation reported to the Governor's Conference delegates and other library groups about what happened in Washington. The seed of a statewide library support group was planted. Professional library leaders met to recommend priority resolutions of the Governor's and White House Conferences, for specific groups to implement. They voted to form a statewide Coalition of Library Advocates to work for the resolutions.

The Coalition, known as COLA (not to be confused with any other kind of COLA), was formed in 1982 and incorporated in 1985 to "support library service and libraries of all types through education, public awareness, [and] the encouragement of local library-support groups." COLA represents about 2000 individuals and libraries and members of professional library organizations and Friends of Library groups. Our membership keeps growing; it increased 35 per cent in 1986.

Our most stunning success was winning, by 67.2 per cent of the voters in November, 1986, an amendment to the RI Constitution that requires the General Assembly to "promote public libraries and library services." RI is the second state in the union to include libraries in its Constitution; Hawaii was the first. That kind of mandate will surely result in improved library services.

COLA joined the professional library community in successfully urging the University of Rhode Island to continue its library school, threatened with closing last spring. URI has the only public graduate library school in northern New England; it has trained 90 per cent of Rhode Island's professional librarians. Closing the school would have struck a serious blow to library service in the entire region.

We share information statewide through newsletters and programs targeted to Friends and trustees on fund-raising, membership, and programming. Our earliest public-awareness project was a Library Fair for the public in a shopping mall in 1982. Perhaps the greatest benefit of the fair, besides the statement libraries were making to the public, was the opportunity, fairly infrequent, for cooperation among libraries and library groups. We foster cooperative relationships with other groups as well; for example, the Rhode Island Arts Advocates. And we share information nationwide in talks about COLA at WHCLIST meetings and at regional and state meetings.

COLA was the first statewide library group in the nation to respond to the challenge of "Nation at Risk" and other educational studies. In a 1984 conference, we explored the role of libraries in the future of education. On request, we have sent the recommendations of that conference, published in 1985, to public, school, academic, and special libraries, departments of education, and state libraries across the country, from Hawaii to Connecticut. A committee of educators, librarians, public officials, and others are meeting now to consider implementation; literacy is emerging as their number-one priority.

At COLA's third annual meeting, this past February, almost a hundred people heard Governor Edward D. DiPrete proclaim 1987 "The Year of the Reader," an initiative being sponsored across the country by the Center for the Book of the Library of Congress. At the same meeting, a young Black woman, surrounded by her husband and two children, told us how learning to read at a branch of the Providence Public Library through a parent-literacy program changed her life. To[illegible]ie didn't use a lot of high-flown language in her brief talk, but she spoke so eloquently that the audience was moved to tears. For many people, this was their first exposure to the problems of illiteracy.

COLA's efforts to battle functional illiteracy stem directly from the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services. We know the next Conference will produce real gains in that battle.

A White House Conference rallies excitement, across the country. It carries the imprimatur of the President of the United States. We all know that libraries are important; a White House Conference tells the world that the President and the Congress think so too. It throws a new spotlight of public awareness on library and information services.

The 1979 Conference expressed what the people of this country wanted from their libraries. The second Conference will build on that framework, focusing on library and information services for literacy, for productivity, and for democracy. Since 1979, astonishing advances in technology, changes in the economy, a rethinking of federal and state responsibilities, a shift into an age of information--all these make access to libraries and to information more vital than ever.

We need a national Conference to give people an opportunity to discuss issues on a national scale, to examine them from a broad, national--even international--perspective. We need a national

Conference to seek cooperative solutions and resource sharing, more than ever feasible with computer and telecommunications technology, to find new cooperative ways to increase access and make the best possible use of funding. We can no longer afford to work only within state or regional borders. Information is not a local commodity.

For all these reasons, we are grateful to Senator Pell for introducing Senate Joint Resolution 26, to hold a second White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

We need a second White House Conference so that every child growing up in America may say, in the words of Senator Pell at the first White House Conference: "Remember, a book is a friend."

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to tell you how strongly I feel about this legislation.

--Joan Ress Reeves
236 Freeeman Parkway
Providence, RI 02906
401-272-7745

Senator STAFFORD. Thank you, Mrs. Reeves. I think we are going to give you the "Calvin Coolidge Brevity Award" for the morning. [Laughter.]

Mrs. REEVES. I accept.

Senator STAFFORD. I had the privilege of serving as Attorney with your Attorney General in the early Fifties, who was a very able blind gentleman. I think he went from there to the Supreme Court. His name has escaped me.[1] But a few years later, I served with Christopher DelSesto in the Governors' Conference, and I guess he has passed away, but he was a very able Governor. And then, I have had the privilege of serving with your two Senators, both of whom I think are exceptionally able, Senators Chafee and Pell.

Mrs. REEVES. As do we all.

Senator STAFFORD. Thank you for your statement.

Shall we go with the Treasurer ahead of the Dean, or the Dean ahead of the Treasurer?

Usually, I would say to the Dean that some of your decisions have to be made on what the Treasurer says is possible. So, Mr.Nole, we will go to you.

Mr. NOLE. Thank you, Senator Stafford, and I want to thank Senator Pell for inviting me to testify before this Committee. My name is Alexander V. Nole. I have been an active member of the Board of Trustees of the Wolcott Public Library in Wolcott, Connecticut for more than 23 years. I am also a member of the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, ACLB, for more than 10 years, and I am currently serving as its Treasurer.

I am here representing the 2,300 library trustees of the State of Connecticut, and I am sure I speak for the untold number of trustees throughout our great Nation who are conscious of the need to hold another White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

A White House Conference will precipitate an involvement of a broad spectrum of our society long before it actually takes place. If I may be so bold, I would like to commend Senator Pell for putting it so succinctly—and I quote—"It is important to keep in mind that a significant aspect of the White House Conference process is the preceding series of local town hall meetings, speak-outs, and Governors' conferences held in each of the States to help our citizens assess and better use the resources we have on a nationwide basis."

As a result of the White House Conference, ACLB has become a more dynamic working force for improving library and information services. ACLB has sponsored or collaborated in the sponsoring of workshops, conferences, speaking programs and the like, to educate the trustees in such areas as trustee responsibility, library policies, censorship, liability, literacy, advocacy and other topics germane to the trustees and to libraries.

ACLB has worked very closely with the State Librarian and his staff and the Connecticut Library Association and the Connecticut Friends of the Library, which incidentally was formed as a result of the first White House Conference, in promoting workshops and conferences for library trustees, library directors, librarians, friends, legislators, and others interested in libraries.

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[1] Note: William E. Powers served as RI Attorney General from 1949-1958, and became an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of RI. [Reference—Providence Public Library, Rhode Island Collection]

The White House Conference of 1979 was a sounding board. Its participants discussed local and national library problems and experiences. These participants went home with new ideas, new programs, enthusiastic and anxious to put these ideas and plans into effect for the betterment of their library community.

Connecticut was indeed fortunate that our participants did come back full of enthusiasm and were able to promote many of the ideas gleaned from the Conference.

For example, we have seen the appointment of a statewide network service council called CONNLINET; the appropriation of $500,000 to support statewide automation to initiate the CONNLINET program; the creation of a Library Services Task Force to develop measures of excellence for Connecticut libraries; the creation of a Marketing Action Group (MAG) to promote the marketing of public library services, and the Governor creating a statewide coalition on literacy. Trustees are involved in the above programs.

Trustees also participated in two statewide planning conferences known as "Toward the Year 2000", which developed an action plan focusing on several funds. The results have been the appropriation of various moneys for library projects and grants, for libraries for literacy materials, to improve rural library references, for public library foreign language collections, and for Friends media campaigns.

These are only some of the many benefits, but there are many areas that still need to be addressed and put on the agenda of the White House Conference. For example: the role of the Nation's libraries in the formal and informal education process, life-long learning and information services; a national information policy which will clearly establish the right of all people's access to information; the question of the role of the various levels of Government in the support of library and information services; resource sharing among all types of libraries; the public awareness of and a national policy for the relationship of libraries and literacy; a satisfactory response to the U.S. Department of Education's "A Nation at Risk"; the impact of automation, telecommunications and other technologies on all types of libraries; and the liability of library boards and staff.

Mr. Chairman, there are many more items, but time will not permit me to list them. I would like to point out that trustees must continue to take a leadership role by becoming more informed on the status quo on library needs and resources in order to improve library and information services. A White House Conference will help us.

Libraries must be a means of creating an information-skilled society. A White House Conference will help.

Mr. Chairman, we need a new sounding board. We need a second White House Conference.

Senator **Stafford**. Thank you, Mr. Nole, very much.

[Information supplied by Mr. Nole follows:]

AC
LB

ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT LIBRARY BOARDS

CONN. STATE LIBRARY, ROOM L-104
231 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

April 24, 1987

The Honorable Clairborne Pell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

I would like to take this opportunity to advise you that the Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB) will wholeheartedly cooperate with the State Library in sponsoring and promoting a successful White House Conference on Library and Information Services

Sincerely yours

Alexander V. Nole
Treasurer

After the hearing, Senator Pell's staff indicated that the Senator was anxious to know if ACLB would support the White Conference. This letter is our reply.

Alexander V. Nole

Senator **Stafford**. Dean, we will now hear from you.

Dr. **Wilde**. Thank you very much, Senator Stafford.

It is a pleasure to be here in Washington to speak and advocate Senate Joint Resolution 26 for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. I sincerely appreciate Senator Hatch's support for this particular Resolution.

I am not a librarian. My testimony, therefore, has to be based upon two factors—first, my personal interest in providing all citizens of the United States with access to library informational and educational services which will meet the need, demands, and challenges of a modern technological society; and second, my role as a principal investigator for the Intermountain Community Learning and Information Services Project, which links the informational and educational resources of the land grant universities and State libraries to rural communities in the States of Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming.

I concur with Dr. Boorstin's excellent statement that the heart of a library is its books. But there is another "heart" of this country, and that is the availability of informational services, no matter how they are delivered.

Let me turn to a particular need of rural residents in our Intermountain States. Separated by distance from metropolitan centers, university libraries, academic libraries, there are many informational and educational needs which cannot be met given the current resources available in local communities, particularly rural communities.

For example, medical doctors need information; lawyers need information; county commissioners need information. There is a whole range of information resources that simply cannot be made available except through inter-library loan or by delivery by other means.

Let me provide an example. Until recently, a medical doctor in Craig, Colorado could not obtain recent medical information to aid and assist patients. We have a community specialist who now, with a computer, was able to get into Med-Line, the National Library of Medicine's database, and find information on a patient suffering from a malignant melanoma. The patient was also seven months pregnant and 20 years old. The doctor changed his treatment of that patient because he was able to get information. This scenario is being repeated throughout the Intermountain States as professionals are able to gain access to information.

This sets the stage for what ICLIS is. ICLIS links together two institutions—one, a State institution, the State library—with a national institution and a State institution, the land grant university. It is supported by private funds, the W.K. Kellog Foundation, and the resources of the State universities and State library—plus we have enlisted the support of a private sector partner, the IBM Corporation, who has now worked with us in establishing a network that is linking the resources to the people.

This leads me to why I am an advocate of the White House Conferences. We have entered the information age. It is an age that is changed by technology. And the pressures of the information age fall upon every societal infrastructure.

Don Dillman, in his studies at Washington State University, has demonstrated that there are going to be some needed changes. I think these perspectives of Dillman and others in sociology are needed to be considered in the agenda.

First, I think that this Nation must develop a national policy on information, access and diffusion and distribution to its peoples.

Second, the people of this Nation, at the grassroots, must assess their learning and information needs to facilitate and build local community capacities. The White House Conferences will assist in doing this.

Third, this Nation and this Government must address how to package and deliver informational resources to the people.

And fourth, the Conference must also address how to link the communities to the informational resources.

These are the reasons I support the assessment and analysis. And I thank the Senate for the opportunity to express them.

Senator STAFFORD. Thank you very much, Dr. Wilde.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Wilde with attachments follows:]

Testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on
Education, Arts, and Humanities
Committee on Labor and Human Resources

concerning the

Senate Joint Resolution 26
1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services

presented by

Glenn R. Wilde
Associate Dean
College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
Utah State University
Logan, Utah

April 3, 1987

Senator Pell, and other distinguished members of the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities, it is an honor to have been asked to testify at this Senate hearing on the Senate Joint Resolution 26, the proposal for a 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services. First, I should introduce myself and establish the reasons for my advocacy of a second White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1989.

I am an Associate Dean in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences for Extension and Life Span Learning Programs at Utah State University, the land grant university for Utah. My testimony is based on two factors: first, my personal interest in providing all citizens of the United States with access to informational and educational services which meet the needs, challenges and demands of a modern technological society, and, second, my role as principal investigator for the Intermountain Community Learning and Information Services project (ICLIS) which links the informational and educational resources of the land grant universities and State Libraries to rural libraries in the states of Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. Our belief, shared among these institutions and state agencies, is that the public library will provide a vital community resource so necessary to this nation's future.

In my testimony at this hearing, I will stress three major points: (1) the needs and benefits of library, informational and educational services for Americans; (2) the description of the Intermountain Community Learning and Information Services project as a potential model for the delivery of services; and (3) a statement of advocacy and agenda ideas for the proposed 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

I

Let me first turn to the needs of Americans, particularly rural Americans, for having access to informational and educational resources. In 1982, I, and others of the Intermountain Community Learning and Information Services project, had the privilege of testifying before the Joint Congressional Hearing on the Changing Information Needs of Rural America (July 21, 1982). At that hearing, we presented data from a Key Informant sample that 60% of the rural respondents in our communities had sought information from some source in the community over the past year. We also presented data that over 50% of these rural residents had to leave the community or send for the kinds of information they required to solve their problem. Fewer than one-third of those requiring information, particularly scientific-technical information, were totally satisified with the information received.

In the five years since that data was gathered, the critical need for information has evidently increased. In the fall of 1986, the ICLIS project scientifically sampled residents in the eight rural community sites in the Intermountain states. This survey showed that over 70% of the residents had sought information in the past year--an increase of 10% from the 1982 survey. Of those seeking informational or educational materials, the community library was widely utilized as a community source by 75.7% of these rural residents, followed by the county Cooperative Extension offices with 34.6%.

These percentages, however, show only utilization--not disappointment. Many of the informational and educational resources for the community professionals are not available in the community; for example, medical professionals still lack access to medical information; county commissioners still lack planning and management information; public school teachers lack research data and educational services. The needs exist, but the linkages between the informational and educational services providers have not reached into rural America--or, in many cases, into urban America.

Let me provide an example of a rural informational need, that until recently could not have been easily satisfied in the community of Craig, Colorado. A medical doctor needed up-to-date medical information to treat malignant melanoma for a twenty year old patient who was also seven months pregnant. The doctor discussed the problem with the ICLIS Community Learning and Information Specialist at the Craig Public Library and Learning Resource Center, who had been trained just a few weeks before to use the DIALOG database system. The Learning and Information Specialist narrowed and defined the information problem and utilized the Med-Line database to get relevant abstracts for the doctor. She later obtained the full article from the Colorado State University Library. According to the Specialist, the medical doctor changed his treatment of the patient.

II

This example sets the stage for my second point: the public libraries throughout America, and particularly rural America, have the potential to become one of the most vital institutions to serve this nation. The Intermountain Community Learning and Information Services project has begun to establish pilot Community Learning and Information Center sites in eight communities in the four Intermountain states. With funding provided by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in late 1985, the land-grant universities and State Libraries in Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming formed partnerships with two communities selected in each of the states to demonstrate the feasibility of a rural public library as a community center for information and for self-directed or formal education. In addition to the public sector partnerships, the IBM Corporation has become a participating private sector partner, providing technical and management support to assist ICLIS in linking needed services to the rural users.

Computer-assisted information access and transfer is now a reality in these Intermountain communities, and an automated electronic mail and bulletin board links the eight specially-trained Learning and Information Specialists to state and university libraries for improved interlibrary loan services, and within the next few weeks, ICLIS will begin hardcopy document delivery services to satisfy needed requests. ICLIS is currently developing its second phase of technologies which will permit the delivery of educational and training programs utilizing telecommunications technologies, such as interactive teleconferencing, video and image transmission, and computer-assisted learning programs.

In addition, ICLIS is installing publicly-accessible computers, supported by a library of software, in the Community Learning and Information Centers to promote services for community users and to extend the utilization of these technologies to rural residents. Those of us working with the ICLIS project are convinced that the purposeful implementation of information and learning technologies in public libraries will enhance opportunities for Americans and at the same time will strengthen the productive capacities of our nation and our communities.

III

This leads me to my third point--why I am an advocate for a 1989 White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services. I could simply say, "It is necessary." And I sincerely believe that it is, but that statement does not supply convincing logic or argument. However, Don Dillman, professor of Rural Sociology at Washington State University, supplies the well-researched and documented justification. Dr. Dillman has described societal change of the 20th Century in the context of three particular eras of social and technological change: (1) an era of "community control, 1900-1940"; (2) an era of "mass society, 1940-1980" and (3) the "Information Age, 1980 -present". Since 1980, Americans have confronted, according to Dillman, the Information Age, which "provokes massive increases in people's abilities to organize, store, retrieve and transmit information. . .at a speed much faster than either of the previous two eras." The greatest pressure of this Information Age will fall upon societal infrastructures, especially rural infrastructures, that seemingly do not possess or utilize the technologies or have the skill or education to adapt to this new environment.

Dillman's study establishes, from my perspective, the context for the 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services. There are some particular, if not urgent, needs that the conference must address:

1. This nation must develop a national policy for information which reflects principles of access and opportunity for all citizens. Such a policy must be formulated from the grassroots issues and needs, in cooperation with state and regional associations, and federal agencies.

2. The people of this nation, whether from rural or urban areas, must assess their learning and information needs to facilitate and build community capacities to

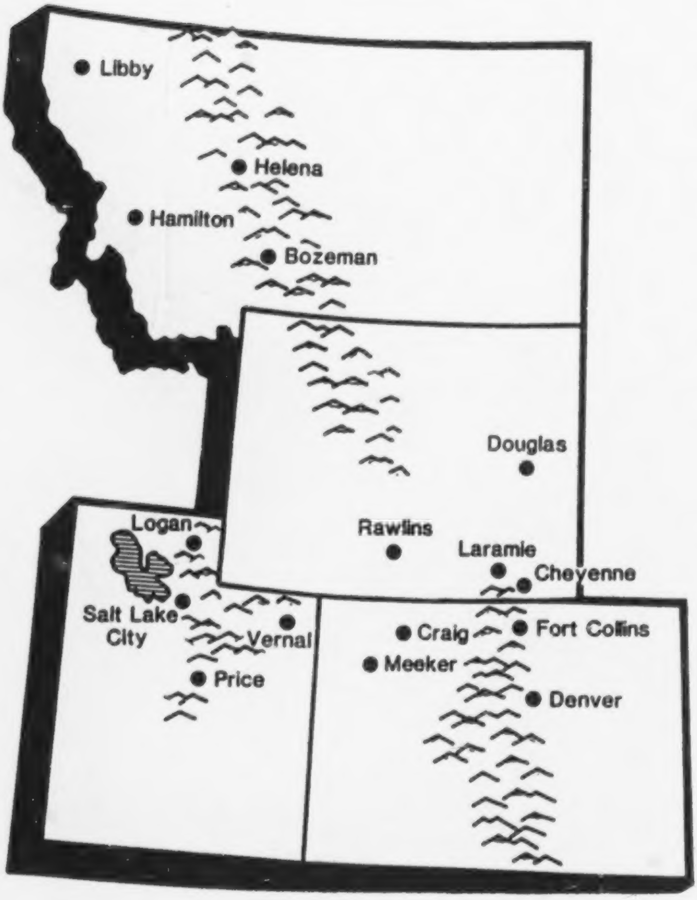
meet the challenges of this Information Age. The community, state, and national processes associated with the White House Conference will accommodate such societal evaluation.

3. This nation must address the development of government informational databases to provide vital problem-solving informational and educational resources which are accessible to the publics. These informational resources must be packaged by agencies or libraries to make them affordable, accessible and usable by citizens.
4. The conference must also address how governments and governmental agencies must link informational and educational resources to build and strengthen the capacity to deliver needed services for citizens. A societal environment knitted together through telecommunications can improve services and result in access, utility and economy for this nation's citizens.

Senator Pell, and other distinguished members of this Senate Committee, I concur with the content of Senate Resolution 26 of January 21, 1987 and with Congressman William D. Ford's House Resolution 244 of the same day, calling for a 1989 White House Joint Conference on Library and Information Services. Such a conference is needed because it addresses our future, and it promotes the integrity of our commitments, public and private, to our nation's people.

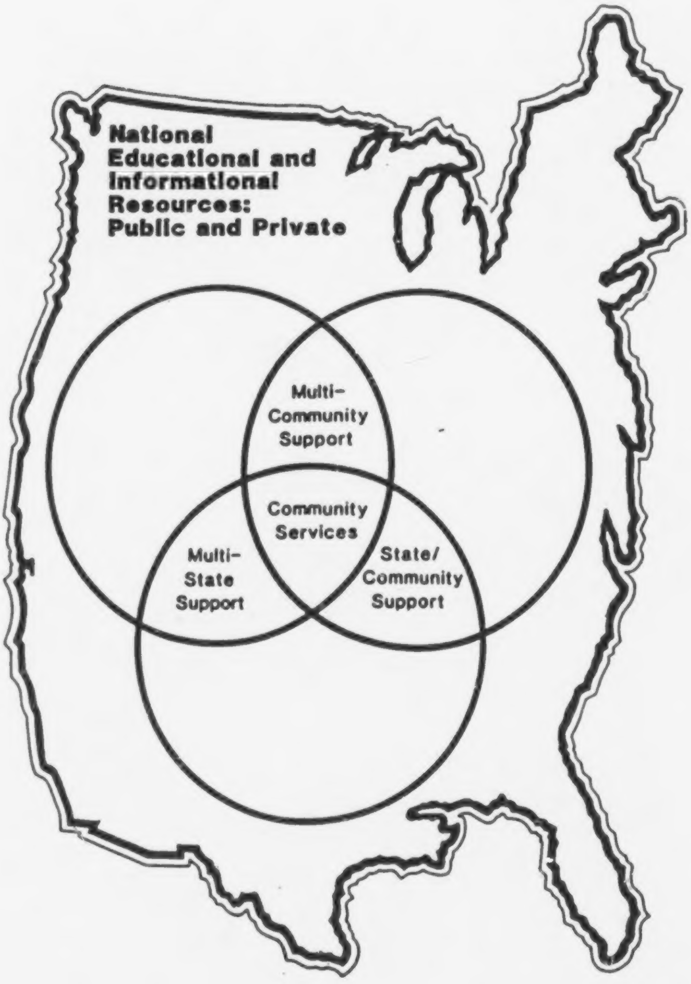
I sincerely thank the members of this committee for the opportunity to speak about these vital issues, and hope that my remarks have provided this committee relevant information concerning this needed conference.

ICLIS PROJECT SITES


Libby
Helena
Hamilton
Bozeman
Douglas
Rawlins
Laramie
Cheyenne
Logan
Salt Lake City
Vernal
Price
Craig
Fort Collins
Meeker
Denver

Intermountain Community Learning and Information Services

ORGANIZATIONAL MODEL TO ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY SERVICE NEEDS


National Educational and Informational Resources: Public and Private
Multi-Community Support
Community Services
Multi-State Support
State/Community Support

"Responsiveness" is the key to effective innovations in rural educational and informational service delivery. This model develops three linkages: (1) regional or multi-state services; (2) state-community services; and (3) local community services. National resources from the public and private sectors will support the service innovations.

The Past is Not the Future: Urban Quality of Life as We Approach the 21st Century

Don A. Dillman
Donald M. Beck

Don A. Dillman is director of the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center and professor in the departments of sociology and rural sociology at Washington State University, Pullman, WA. He is author of *Mail and Telephone Surveys: The Total Design Method* and approximately 75 other publications. His current research interests include the impacts of information technologies on society, the diffusion of innovations, and the improvement of survey methodologies. Donald M. Beck is a research assistant in the departments of sociology and rural sociology, also at Washington State. He is currently researching the use of social science information in public policy formation, the diffusion of innovations, and rapid change in developing countries.

How can we tell if the residents of a city have a good quality of life? Is it above average incomes, low levels of air pollution, or a high proportion of housing units in good repair? Is it a high level of educational achievement for a city's residents or perhaps special attributes that give special identity to a city, such as St. Louis' arch or San Francisco's cable cars? Or is quality of life a matter of how satisfied people say they are in response to a pollster's inquiry?

Until the 1950s, quality of life (QOL) was seen as pretty much synonymous with people's economic well-being and certain attributes unique to particular cities. The 1960s saw the beginning of a social indicators movement, the first phase of which was the development of the so-called objective indicators, i.e., the counting of service attributes that could be easily measured, such as medical doctors per capita and the amount of green space per resident.[1] The second phase was the development of subjective indicators, people's own assessments of their well-being and life satisfaction.[2]

The attention paid to quality of life indicators in recent years may suggest that city planners need only monitor changes using already developed measures. In our view, those interested in examining the quality of life in American cities face a far more fundamental challenge as powerful forces change the dynamics of our cities and demand new ways of thinking about quality of life.

In this brief article we will describe three eras, "the community control era" (mostly past), the "mass society" (now in decline), and "the information age" (in rapid ascension), each of which has major implications for assessing and defining QOL in American cities and has evolved assumptions about QOL appropriate and peculiar to it. (Figure 1).

The Community Control Era

In the early 1900s, major industries were established in urban areas to take advantage of the large immigrant labor force, transportation routes, and proximity to other businesses, as well as the public services (e.g., fire, police, sewer, and garbage disposal) not available in less populated areas. Cities provided a chance for unskilled people to get jobs and advance economically. Neighborhoods were formed along ethnic lines while employment was organized along industrial lines. What happened to people was largely a function of their ethnic background and industrial orientation.[3] In well-defined neighborhoods, people could, and typically did, go through life having most of their needs met and their lives dominated by their local environment.

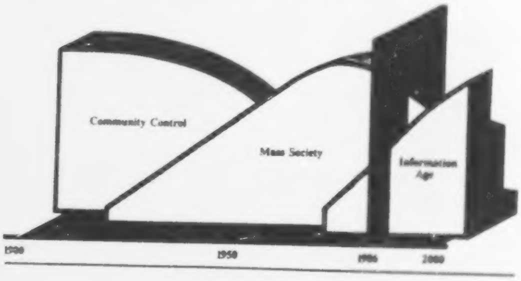
These urban neighborhoods were very parochial. For example, job seekers would often turn to their neighborhood, hoping to improve their chances by identifying potential employers of the same ethnic background. The ethnic composition of a work force influenced worker solidarity, which in turn influenced management/labor relationships. In such relatively homogeneous neighborhoods, the people seen in church were the same people seen when one shopped or took children to school. This overlapping institutional structure, which provided immigrants with a sense of community and a network of friends and job contacts, also served to strengthen neighborhood control and to bind residents to the neighborhood's norms and mores.

QOL in the industrial city was largely determined by the ability of the city's neighborhoods to adequately acclimate immigrants to American society and to provide employment leads, ethnic solidarity, and a sense of community. City leaders pointed to their "strong neighborhoods" as evidence of a "good" QOL. QOL in the community control era depended mostly on what a city could do with its own resources and those drawn from the hinterland it served, not on the largesse of national corporations or the federal government. Family income was the most important indicator of QOL. The higher the neighborhood's or the city's average income, the better its QOL was assumed to be. In addition, each city had its special attractions—Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, New York's Empire State Building, San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

The Mass Society

"On nearly every front, the mid-twentieth century

Figure 1. Strength of Three Eras of Social and Economic Change



witnessed an assault on tightly knit neighborhoods and communities."[4] Automobiles, paved highways, telephones, and the growth of suburbs expanded the size of the population within which people interacted daily. The telephone expedited communications. Greater societal wealth increased travel opportunities. The rise in national corporations assured a regular turnover of neighborhood managers with whom local residents did business. Diversity of educational opportunities and military experiences brought urbanites into contact with other parts of the country and the world to an unprecedented degree. Television bombarded all U.S. cities with the same programming, and local businesses and social service agencies were part of regional and national hierarchies. The federal government was increasingly present in all aspects of urban life, from street construction to welfare.

The mass society also brought about a relocation of industry. As industries became more dependent on automobiles and trucks, the inner city congestion made suburban locations more attractive. As suburbs began offering comprehensive municipal services, effectively eliminating many advantages enjoyed by the cities in the community control era, their space and cheaper land prices helped to spur an industrial exodus from central cities.

Urban neighborhoods lost power as arenas for action. In the areas of employment, education, and health, decisions were likely to be made without consideration of their effect on neighborhood institutions. Mass society organized the nation's institutions to deal with people in the aggregate, concentrating on their similarities rather than their differences. The urban response to this was predictable and appropriate. Urban government turned its attention to new areas such as regional planning, recreational services, and comprehensive health services. City and regional governments replaced the neighborhood power brokers as the chief providers of health and education services and accepted the responsibility of providing sewer, electricity, and water to all urban residents regardless of neighborhood or ethnicity. Cities worked with industries to ensure a healthy economic climate and actively courted new businesses.

Despite the growth of large slums in mass society, overall economic well-being increased dramatically, and city dwellers began to address other objectives. Unfortunately, some of their new goals—such as clean air and water and a sense of neighborhood—had become the victims of economic progress. Having achieved what they strove for in the community control era, they now missed what had been taken for granted in that earlier time and had to rethink the meaning of QOL.[5] This realization ushered in the second stage of QOL indicators, an expansion into many areas of life. Emphasis was now placed on identifying ways to objectively measure educational achievement, health services, political participation, leisure time, crime rates, and a seemingly indeterminate number of other factors. Additionally, subjective measures of QOL became important. These were based on the seemingly simple assumption that society exists to meet the needs of the people in it and that to find out whether those needs are being met, we would simply ask them.

Even more importantly, the entire basis of what constituted an acceptable QOL indicator or level of accomplishment on that indicator changed. Cities compared themselves frequently and in detail. Through such influences as mass media, corporate lifestyles which entailed frequent moves from one city to another, and the dependence on federal programs, cities increasingly defined QOL as getting more of the things that other cities had. During the community control era, citizens had looked to their own cities to define what constituted a good QOL and to get the resources for providing it. In the mass society, however, citizens looked to the federal government and national corporations for help, and to other cities for definition.

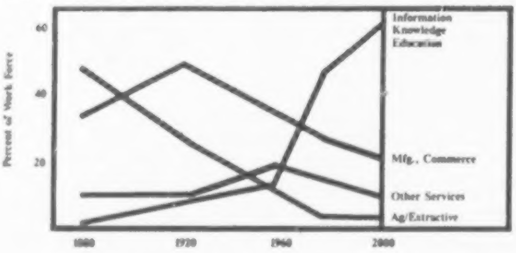
The Information Age in the Global Economy

The mass society witnessed the early development of computer technologies and a national communication infrastructure which ushered in the information age,[6] based upon an astonishing revolution in people's abilities to organize, store, retrieve, and transmit information. The essence of the information age is massive increases in all the following: 1) the *speed* by which communication may occur between one place and another, 2) the *amount* of information that can be transmitted, 3) the *fidelity* of long-distance communications, 4) the *miniaturization* of computer and communication technologies, 5) the *ability to send as well as receive* information from virtually any point on earth, 6) the *relative importance of telecommunicated messages* compared to transactions requiring physical movement as determinants of people's behavior, 7) the *ability to select* from data banks the precise information needed for making decisions, 8) the ability through *artificial intelligence* to conceptualize problems and possible solutions in ways beyond individual human capabilities, 9) the *relative importance of information* versus labor and energy in the production of goods and services, 10) the *rate of potential change* in who interacts with whom for what purpose, and 11) the development of *information intensive products* through biotechnology and other research.[7]

We are shifting from an industrial society to one in which most effort goes into and most value is produced by information-processing activities. Information is being substituted for time, labor, and energy in the production of goods and services.[8] It is becoming one of our raw materials as well as a product. The information society overlaps the production, distribution, and consumption of tangible things. Agriculture and industry continue to progress by doing more with less through better knowledge.[9]

Nowhere is this shift clearer than in the composition of the United States labor force (Figure 2). Whereas in 1880 agriculture, manufacturing, commerce, and industry employed 86 percent of the U.S. work force, by 1975 that proportion had dropped to only 33 percent. By the year 2000 it is projected to be 24 percent. In contrast, the proportion of the work force that deals with information, knowledge, and education has risen from 2 to 50 percent and is projected to jump to two-thirds of the American work force by the turn of the century.[10] Some 90 percent of the new jobs created from 1970 to 1980 involve information or service activities. Further, the value added to economic output by information work has increased from $300 to $5000 (in 1958 purchasing power) per worker between 1900 and 1975.

Figure 2. United States Work Force Distribution



Based Upon: Cleveland, Pub. Adm. Rev., 1985

Accurately perceiving what a full-fledged information age will be like is probably beyond our most imaginative capabilities. When Guttenberg invented the moveable type mold, it is doubtful he could have envisioned the universality of daily newspapers, paperback books, want-ads, stock prices, and sports pages. Guttenberg's invention probably had its detractors, who saw it as a novel idea but not something that would replace writing manuscripts by hand. Many innovations—whether printing press, computer, airplane, or steam engine—have little or no initial advantage over other technologies. The first automobiles were slower than horses, far less reliable, and completely unusable on muddy roads. The real advantage of new technologies emerges after linked and new capabilities develop.

The information revolution has helped to usher in a true world economy. In our global society, which saw a doubling of the goods and services being traded among countries from $1 trillion to $2 trillion between from 1976 to 1980, the United States is striving to maintain its manufacturing base by the substitution of information for other resources. New satellite communication technologies coupled with jet airplane travel have decreased information and product lag time between the U.S. and other countries. The immediate transfer of information has enabled other countries to understand, project, and meet U.S. consumer demand. The United States no longer dominates domestic or foreign markets as it once did. In less than a decade, Japan and Third World nations have become the dominant producer of dozens of products, from tape recorders and televisions to auto parts and clothing. American companies that are still nominally involved with manufacturing actually manufacture less and less.[11] For example, Caterpillar Tractor Co. imports 16 percent of its vehicle components from other countries. The General Electric Co. imported $1.4 billion worth of products in 1985 and sold them under its U.S. label. Kodak purchases its video camera-recorders, videotape, and mid-size copying machines from Japan. In a very real sense, many traditional U.S. manufacturers have become little more than marketers for foreign products.

For urban areas, the ramifications of this transition into a global economy and information age have been far-reaching. Most noticeable has been the loss of industrial jobs and the growth of information-related jobs. John Kasarta's study of large U.S. cities found that between 1953 and 1980, employment in manufacturing and construction industries as a share of total private-sector employment dropped from 40 to 23 percent in New York City, from 50 to 27 percent in Philadelphia, and from 32 to 17 percent in Boston.[12] During the same period, employment in information-processing industries expanded from 22 to 45 percent in New York City, from 12 to 43 percent in Philadelphia, and from 22 to 53 percent in Boston. New York City and Boston now have more workers in information-processing industries than in the manufacturing, construction, retail, and wholesale industries combined[1]

Urban Quality of Life and the Information Age

The information age has substantial implications for urban QOL. In the mass society era, a city's economic vitality depended heavily on its geographic location, transportation connections to other cities, and successful exploitation of the hierarchical relationships which dominated our society's organization. In the information age, with the declining emphasis on manufacturing and the lessened importance of hierarchy, economic vitality will depend more upon a city's connections to other cities throughout the world, the information infrastructure developed to attract and support new firms, and the information-age skills of the population.

Fiber-optic cables, digital switching, laser disks, satellite communication, word processors, facsimile transmissions, and computer integrated manufacturing are as much the essential elements of economic productivity now as interstate highways, industrial parks, water and sewage systems, and human assembly lines were to the mass society era. To be competitive, cities must develop information infrastructures which make them desirable locations for businesses. No less important to a city's future will be its success in imparting needed information skills to its citizenry. A strong back and a willingness to work were the keys to employment in the community control era. In the mass society, specialized technical skills and a demonstrated ability to fit into a particular industry or corporation were highly prized. In the information society individuals will need the abiltiy to learn new skills and adapt to different environments. Employers will be hiring people less for what they know than for their ability to learn. To demonstrate the abilility for lifelong learning, urban residents will need to be familiar with the languages and technologies of the information age. This will require exposure to computers, telecommunications equipment, and different languages and cultures.

The transition toward an information era will be uneven and difficult as established institutions and modes of economic organization give way to new ones. Two frequently voiced fears are a possible decline in the middle class as the jobs of skilled craftsmen and managers are taken over by computers and an increase in individual alienation from the workplace as people become less central to the routine provision of goods and services.[13] Concern over people's adaptability will require that measurement of QOL in the information age address these threatening aspects of greater reliance on information technologies.

The task of matching a work force with the types of jobs available will be difficult. Many central cities are faced with a rising, undereducated, minority population at the same time that the types of jobs available require more and more education. John Kasarta points out that large proportions of minority central-city residents still do not possess the education to participate in information-processing industries.[14] Although new entry level jobs are being created in the suburbs or exurbs, the inner-city unemployed are structurally removed from them. To combat this mismatch, cities will need to provide appropriate education and training for their citizens.

For these reasons, the way in which we will define urban QOL in the future will be different from the past and present. As we move closer to the 21st century, urban planners will continue to be concerned about economic indicators of life and both subjective and objective indicators of people's well-being. However, they will also have a new focus—the degree to which their city's population is equipped to participate in the information age. Urban planners will become increasingly interested in such things as percentage of homes with computers, cable TV service, and VCRs, and the percent of their population who possess computer literacy. Educational quality may come to be measured by such criteria as the ratio of computer terminals to students, the proportion of teachers using computers in their classrooms, and the number of information technology courses offered. Measurement of library quality will shift from the number of volumes held to the number and variety of on-line data bases and the number of public access computer terminals. In the future, cities could find themselves less concerned with the number of freeway miles than the number of miles of fiber-optic cables or the ease with which people can reach the airport. Community development programs may focus on providing cheap transportation to industrial sites for less-educated citizens as well as massive educational efforts to prepare them for the realities of the information age job market.

An MIT study of the U.S. economy concluded that the things that now matter for economic development are: 1) a highly-educated and trained labor force; 2) high quality university research; 3) a professionally run, efficient public service delivery; 4) state-of-the-art telecommunications; and 5) physical beauty.[15] Some cities have already begun to respond to these new criteria for economic growth. As William Blazer points out, the city governments of New York, Columbus, and San Antonio have taken the initiative in building satellite earth stations in order to attract new, and support current, information age industries.[16] Blazer stresses that the *growing reliance on service sector businesses for jobs and deregulation of the telecommunications marketplace suggest that cities should (at a minimum) evaluate their prospects for development from a telecommunications perspective.*

However, most cities have adopted a "wait and see" attitude, assuming that the necessary infrastructure and training programs will occur as needed. Such an approach is extremely risky. The cities that invest in a new information infrastructure will be the cities with the advantage tomorrow. Cities that don't may soon find themselves in the position of those mass society cities which failed to grasp the importance of downtown freeways and large airports—bypassed, and therefore, less able to provide a high QOL to their citizens.

Notes

[1] Raymond A. Bauer, ed., *Social Indicators* (Cambridge: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1966).

[2] Frank M. Andrews and Stephen B. Withey, *Social Indicators of Well-Being: Americans' Perceptions of their Life Quality* (New York: Plenum Press, 1976).

[3] Hilda H. Golden, *Urbanization and Cities* (Lexington, Mass.: D. C. Heath and Company, 1981).

[4] Roland L. Warren, *The Community in America* (Chicago: Rand McNally College Publishing Company, 1978).

[5] Donald Dillman and Kenneth R. Tremblay, Jr., "The Quality of Life in Rural America," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political Social Science* (January 1977), 115-129.

[6] Wilson P. Dizard, *The Coming Information Age* (New York: Longman, 1982).

[7] Don A. Dillman, "The Social Impacts of Information Technologies in Rural North America," *Rural Sociology* (Spring 1985), 1-26.

[8] Paul Hawkin, *The Next Economy* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1983).

[9] Cleveland Harlan, "Information as a Resource," *The Futurist* (December 1982), 34-39.

[10] Harlan, 34-39.

[11] "The Hollow Corporation," *BusinessWeek* (March 3, 1986), 57-85.

[12] John D. Kasarda, "Urban Change and Minority Opportunities" in *The New Urban Reality*, Paul E. Peterson, ed. (Washington D. C.: The Brookings Institution, 1985), 33-67.

[13] Bob Kuttner, "The Declining Middle," *Atlantic Monthly* (July 1983), 60-72.

[14] Kasarda.

[15] David Birch, "The Changing Rules of the Game: Finding a Niche in the Thoughtware Economy," *Commentary* (Winter 1984), 12-16.

[16] William A. Blazer, "Telecommunications: Harnessing It for Development," *Commentary* (Fall 1985), 8-11.

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UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY · LOGAN, UTAH 84322

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES,
ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE DEAN
UMC 07

April 6, 1987

APR 09 1987

Senator Claiborne Pell, Chairman
Subcommittee on Education, Arts and
Humanities
United State Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6300

Dear Senator Pell:

I am pleased to give written responses to the questions requested at the hearing on Senate Joint Resolution 26, White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

Question: **"Did you find the materials generated at the 1979 White House Conference to be helpful in your work as an educator?"**

The 1979 White House Conference generated citizen involvement in planning for future library and information services, particularly in identification of needed services. As colleges and universities extend education to nontraditional, older students in rural areas, the need for improved library and learning resource materials will become greater. This, in fact, was one of the motivating factors for initiating the ICLIS project.

More specifically, the White House Conference processes articulated specific information that we were able to use in developing the project plan which became the Intermountain Community Learning and Information Services project. My colleague from the University of Wyoming best related this in the Joint Congressional Hearings on the Changing Needs of Rural American: The Role of Libraries and Information Technology (July 21, 1982." She stated during that hearing: "The Intermountain Community Library and Information Service project fits in very well with the recommendations of the Wyoming Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services incorporated into the recommendations made by the 1979 White House Conference on Libary and Information Services, especially those recommendations for use of new technologies, services to rural citizens, cooperation between libraries, and the provision of technical and professional materials."

The recommendations stemming from the processes in Utah were similar to those of Wyoming, and working with Russell Davis, Director of the Utah State Library, and Amy Owen, the deputy director, were worked to incorporate those suggestions into the planning and development processes. In addition, I believe that it has also resulted in better cooperation among the academic institutions in Utah to support improved library services.

Question: **In connection with the four-state project referred to in your testimony, what was the total amount that the Kellogg Foundation provided in support?**

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation provided $2.7 million to support the ICLIS project over a four-year period. These funds, we fully anticipate, will be matched by services and resources in the states and communities, and possibly services and assistance from federal agencies to assist them in the delivery of services to rural residents.

How many pilot projects are you anticipating in each of the four states?

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation has provided funding for two selected community sites in each of the participating ICLIS states. These are pilot communities, but we are designing the telecommunications system to allow for expandability to other pilot communities. We are currently establishing network standards to permit expandability to other sites in phases. The most important consideration, however, is not technologies but rather the services to be provided. ICLIS is predicated on developing services to accommodate growth and needs which can be shared within a state or a multi-state region.

These are the responses to the written questions. If further information is requested, I will be happy to supply a response.

My sincere thanks to you an others for allowing me to testify before your committee.

Sincerely,

Glenn R. Wilde

Glenn R. Wilde
Associate Dean

Senator STAFFORD. Let me repeat what I said to the last panel. Since the Chairman, Senator Pell, is not able to be here, and several other Members for the same reason are detained on the Floor of the Senate, I expect they may have questions they might wish to submit to you in writing.

I thank you all very much for coming and assisting us as we deliberate on S.J. Res. 26.

Thank you.

The final panel will consist of Ms. Patricia Klinck, who is the State Librarian of the Vermont Department of Libraries; Mr. Joseph Shubert, Assistant Commissioner for Libraries at New York State Library, and Mr. Wayne Johnson, who is the State Librarian from Wyoming State Library in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

One thing all Senators do, particularly those who have been Chairmen of Committees, is get a little parochial, and I intend to for just a minute this morning, because it does give me great pleasure to introduce Ms. Patricia Klinck, Vermont's very able State Librarian.

Patty has served as Vermont's Librarian for several years. In that capacity she has spearheaded the expansion of library services throughout the State. She has fought for increased State appropriations for public library programs as well as a sophisticated telecommunications network linking college and public libraries throughout Vermont.

I have relied on her for guidance and information about library programs for several years and enjoyed both her counsel and her friendship. I look forward to hearing her testimony today and deeply appreciate her taking the time to appear before this Subcommittee.

I will have to say the weather may be better in Vermont, and even warmer, this morning than it is here.

Ms. KLINCK. It is snowing.

Senator STAFFORD. Well, that should extend the ski season.

Gentlemen, if it is agreeable to you, I would like to start with Ms. Klinck.

STATEMENT OF PATRICIA E. KLINCK, STATE LIBRARIAN, VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES, MONTPELIER, VT; JOSEPH F. SHUBERT, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LIBRARIES, NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY, CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER, ALBANY, NY, AND WAYNE H. JOHNSON, STATE LIBRARIAN, WYOMING STATE LIBRARY, CHEYENNE, WY

Ms. KLINCK. Thank you, Senator. I am delighted to be here.

My name is Patty Klinck. I am the State Librarian in Vermont, a rural State where two-thirds of the population live in towns under 1,500 people.

As State Librarian, I am responsible for and dedicated to the promotion of library services and access to information, and I truly believe these should be easily available to every citizen, no matter where he or she lives.

As you know—I am going to be a bit of the voice of the different drummer. For some, the debate over the White House Conference has become polarized, if you are for it, you are for libraries, and if you are against it, you are against libraries. I think this is a very simplistic approach to the problem.

The issue to me is not a clearcut issue. It involves priorities, it involves hard choices, and it involves the effective use of available funds at both the national and the State level.

My top priority continues to be the improvement of library services in Vermont, but even more important than that, the improvement of library services to the individual user.

I would like to address three issues. While it is estimated that the Conference will cost a total of $15 million, I think that State and local funds also have to be considered along with this. It is my understanding that $5 million is request from Federal funds, with the remaining $10 million to be raised elsewhere.

Because library services are crucial to a democratic society, I would urge that this funding, if it is to be made available for a White House Conference, it not be allowed to be deducted from our existing Federal library program funding at either the national or the State level.

For example, in rural Vermont, a conference for 100 participants would cost at least $100,000—if we used the inflation factor used to get to $15 million, it would be a lot more. That amount of money and services to us at home is 10,000 books. It is telephones for 100 libraries who at this time do not have telephones. It is automation for 10 rural libraries that have no other hope. And it is humanities reading and discussion series for 75 public libraries—and this is in the areas of the illiterate, of the elderly—and they are already successful, which would reach approximately 11,000 or 12,000, based on experience.

Needless to say, if we in Vermont were fortunate enough to have $100,000, we would have to make some hard choices. But our choice would be to benefit the library user in as broad a way as possible.

I think at a time when local and State revenue-sharing funds have ceased, when many States are experiencing difficulty, this becomes an even bigger issue.

I have been told that the intent of the White House Conference is that State Conferences would be optional. But I find the wording to be ambiguous. I would urge that after the words, "State conferences optional", that the following wording be put in: "State or regional conferences, programs and activities relating to the White House Conference be optional and at the discretion of the individual State."

We differ greatly from State to State. We differ in finances, we differ in our financial situations, and I do not think any State should be penalized or forced for not expending funds on a library conference. I think to be creative, a far more flexible approach has to be developed.

Thirdly, I am concerned about the model for the Conference. I am not concerned about the subject areas, which I do like. I am concerned about the actual model which cannot, I think, as it is formatted, address the complicated technological and access problems in today's library and information community.

I would suggest that someone look at a possible alternative, possibly a think tank format, where you bring people together on four or five issues and then come out with recommendations that could possibly be a positive functional blueprint for the future.

Is the goal of the White House Conference to heighten public awareness of resources and issues? If so, I maintain this could be accomplished at a fraction of the cost. Because funding is a perennial and major concern of local libraries, many feel a White House Conference will heighten awareness of the continued need for adequate library support.

To me, it would be better to demonstrate in concrete ways how libraries touch everyday lives and how essential information and knowledge are to democracy. Media involvement is important. But in addition, the grassroots and local government could be better-served through local library reading and discussion programs exploring information, knowledge, intellectual freedom, self-education, and access as they affect individuals and society as a whole. Together, the providers of information services and their constituents could reach mutual understanding and begin to work more closely to solve problems. And I am talking in terms of humanities, scholars, reading and discussion programs, which have been successful in our State.

My last concern, of course, is the projected date of the Conference. As Mr. Benton pointed out, it would be very difficult to have a Conference now in 1989. And I would urge that if indeed this Conference is decided to be a necessity, that the time line be pushed back into the early Nineties to make the enterprise at least a meaningful one, considering the vagaries of local funding and seasonal commitments.

Considering the complex problems facing library services in a sophisticated, evolving technological world, I hope that all alternatives will be investigated before spending this level of dollars. I also urge that if a Conference is to be funded at the Federal level, please do not take the funding from our existing library programs.

I would like to close by thanking you and urging that this proposal for a White House Conference be discussed and decided not at a pro- or anti-library issue, but rather, in terms of other library challenges, other library priorities, and the hard choices between services and meetings.

We all love libraries. The question before us, then, is what is best for them, what is best for their communities, and most of all, what is best for the individual user.

Thank you.

Senator STAFFORD. Thank you very much indeed, Ms. Klinck, for a very good statement. We appreciate it.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Klinck and responses to questions submitted by Senator Pell follow:]

Statement of

Patricia E. Klinck
Vermont State Librarian

before the
Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities
of the
Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources

on
S.J. Resolution 26
White House Conference on Library and Information Services

April 3, 1987

I am Patricia E. Klinck, State Librarian of Vermont, a rural state in which two thirds of the 207 public libraries serve populations of less than 1,500 people. I was also a member of the Preliminary Design Group for the proposed 1989 White House Conference on Libraries.

After studying the proposals and legislation for the suggested White House Conference carefully, I have several specific concerns about the viability of the conference for 1989. As a state librarian I am responsible for and dedicated to the promotion of library services and access to information and truly believe that these should be easily available to every citizen no matter where he or she lives.

For some, the debate over the proposed White House Conference has become polarized. If you're for it, you're for libraries. If you're against it, you're against libraries. This is a simplistic and emotional approach to a real and multifaceted issue.

The issue to me is not clearcut. Rather, it involves priorities, choices and the effective use of available funds both at the national and state levels. My top priority continues to be the improvement of library services, not just to libraries, but more importantly to the individual user.

I would like to address three issues in this proposed legislation: funding, specific wording and the actual design model. While it is estimated that the conference itself will cost $15,000,000, I believe proposed total costs of accompanying state and regional activities should also be considered. It is my understanding that $5,000,000 will be from Federal funds with the remaining $10,000,000 plus to be raised elsewhere. Because library services are crucial to a democratic society, I would urge that if funding is to be made available for a White House Conference, it not be allowed to be deducted from existing Federal library program funding at either the national or state level. In small rural Vermont, for example, the cost of a state conference for only 100 participants is conservatively estimated to be over $100,000. That amount of money in services would provide:

- 10,000 books; or
- telephones for 1 year for the 100 libraries without phone service; or
- automation of at least 10 rural libraries with a limited tax base and no source of funds for technology; or
- humanities reading discussion series for the average person, the elderly or the newly literate in 75 public libraries, reaching over 11,000 individuals in the process.

Needless to say if we in Vermont were fortunate enough to have $100,000 additional dollars, it is obvious that we, too, would have to set priorities and make choices. But our choice would most certainly be to benefit library users as broadly and directly as possible.

In a time when local and state Federal revenue sharing funds have ceased, when many states are experiencing difficult financial crises, it is crucial for us to spend our limited and precious Federal library dollars on detailed, concrete planning for and services to present and potential users.

I have been told that the intent of the legislation is that if there is a White House Conference on Libraries, state conferences would be optional, but I find the actual wording in the legislation after this paragraph heading very ambiguous. I strongly urge that a sentence be added after the heading State Conference Optional and before the present wording that specifically states that "State and/or regional conferences, programs and activities related to the proposed White House Conference be optional and at the discretion of the individual states." Economic conditions and library planning and programs differ greatly from state to state. Several states have recently been forced to cut library and all other services drastically. In this climate, states should not be forced, nor should they be penalized for not expending funds on a library conference. A more flexible approach to examination of complex issues is essential.

Thirdly, I am concerned that the actual model for the conference will not fully address the complicated technological and access problems that today's library and information community faces. Will the 1979 White House Conference model, which had only limited impact then, be adequate or appropriate for 1989 and beyond? The past 10 years have brought strategic planning to the library community. Most of this concrete planning must be and is accomplished at the state and local level.

What, then, is the goal of a White House Conference? Is it to develop a single national information policy or a single national network? Is this possible or even desireable? Rather, should networks be distributed or even state-based? Perhaps an alternative White House Conference format, such as topically-oriented think tanks or retreats on four or five key issues with a variety of people and requiring recommendations for action, could grapple with this question more effectively. It might lead to a positive, functional blueprint for future library services.

Or, is the goal of a White House Conference to heighten public awareness of libraries, resources, services, and issues? If so, then I maintain this could be accomplished at a fraction of the cost of a White House Conference. Because funding is a perennial - and major - concern of local libraries, many feel a White House Conference will heighten awareness of the continued need for adequate library support. They ascribe to the addage, "You have to spend money to make money." Certainly this is true, up to a point. But, you also have to spend money effectively. It would be better to demonstrate in concrete ways how libraries touch everyday lives and how essential information and knowledge are to democracy. Media involvement - turning the spotlight on libraries - is important. But, in addition, the grass roots and local government could be better served through local library reading - discussion programs exploring information, knowledge, intellectual freedom, self-education, and various barriers to access as they affect individuals and society as a whole. Together, providers of library and information services and their constituents could reach mutual understanding and begin to work more closely to solve problems.

My last concern is the projected date of the proposed White House Conference. If you determine that a White House Conference is indeed necessary, it must be carefully planned both on the national level and in those states wishing to do parallel state conferences. The timeline is already extremely tight and even impossible when the entire country with its seasonal conditions and funding mechanisms are taken into consideration. I would urge that if you do move forward, the timeline be pushed back into the 1990's to make this enterprise a meaningful one.

Considering the complex problems facing library services in a sophisticated, evolving technological world, I hope that all alternatives will be investigated before spending $15,000,000 as well as even more from other government levels. I also urge that if such a conference is to be funded at the Federal level the funding not be taken from existing library programs.

In closing, I again thank you and urge that this proposal of a White House Conference be discussed and decided not as a pro or anti-library issue but rather in terms of other library challenges, priorities and hard choices. We all love libraries. The question before us is then, what is best for them, their communities and their patrons?

PEK/rvp

STATE OF VERMONT **DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES**

STATE LIBRARIAN

April 22, 1987

The Honorable Claiborne Pell, Chairman
Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510-6300

Dear Senator Pell:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify at the hearing on April 3 concerning the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services. After the hearing Sandy Crary asked me to research two questions for you concerning library services in Vermont.

Your first question dealt with the LSCA Title III which was increased from $5 million to $12 million after the 1979 White House Conference. Under the $5 million provision Vermont received $46,290 a year in LSCA Title III funds. In FY83, under the $12 million provision, Vermont received $60,863. Even though the funds for LSCA Title III more than doubled, the formula and base remained unchanged and all additional funds were distributed according to population. Vermont realized only a 31.48% increase because of its small population when the total Federal funding for LSCA Title III increased by 140%. Presently, under the $17,640,000 provision Vermont receives $74,227, an increase of 21.95% when the total Federal funding increased by 47%. This will be true also for any future increases in Title III funds distributed under the present formula. In a small, rural state this level of funding does not reach far in a rapidly changing technological world.

The second question you asked was the cost of the 1979 Governor's Conference on Libraries. The cost was $38,215. Of this, $12,230 was cash and $25,985 was match and in-kind expenditure including conference staff salaries, etc. Using the $38,215 and the same inflation figures that NCLIS is using to take the 1979 $3.5 million to $15 million, the estimate for Vermont would be $160,000. It is safe to say that there is no way we would spend that much without major criticism in this state. In using estimates for planning, travel and expenses, materials, adequate staff and program, a realistic estimate would be approximately $100,000 to carry out an adequate but by no means luxurious state conference in Vermont for just 100 people.

I think my testimony expresses my feelings on the overall issue. I am still

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LOCATION: 111 State Street, Montpelier

extremely concerned about the date, the rigid model and the cost of the overall project. I again also would urge that Section 2(d) of the resolution under the heading State Conferences Optional be changed to read: " ALL activities, conferences, and programs developed in conjunction with the national White House Conference at the state and/or regional level are at the discretion of the individual states and will be eligible for available grants. Delegates to the national conference from individual states may be chosen by the states in a manner consistent with the overall planning and programming in the individual states."

This wording would allow for maximum flexibility and creativity in meeting conference goals but also in meeting state-based needs.

Thank you again for your willingness to listen to all views on this issue which deals not just with a single issue but also with priorities and choices for a wide range of differing library and information situations. We all appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely,

Patricia E. Klinck
State Librarian

PEK:bgg

cc: Senator Robert T. Stafford

Senator STAFFORD. Mr. Shubert, we will go next to you if that is agreeable between you and Mr. Johnson.

Mr. SHUBERT. Thank you. I am grateful to have this opportunity to speak to you in behalf of Senate Joint Resolution 26.

I had the good fortune to participate in both the 1979 White House Conference and in the 1978 New York State Governors' Conference on Libraries. As important, I have had the responsibility for seeing that the resolutions from those two conferences helped shape library services in New York State.

I would like to talk first about how the New York State Conference as part of the White House Conference process, produced change in New York State.

The first resolution of the 1978 conference was endorsement of two bills which were then pending in the State Legislature, to increase funding for library systems and to bring school libraries into the statewide network. The Legislature enacted that legislation in September 1987, and this was followed by other major library legislation in 1981, 1984 and 1986.

None of these enactments has provided all the resources our libraries need to meet the demands of the people they serve, but they have enabled us to do several important things.

We have been able to more than double the number of libraries participating in the regional and statewide systems.

We have brought 264 hospital libraries into regional resources sharing, and we have enabled more than half of those hospital libraries to upgrade services in accordance with new standards.

We have been able to expand outreach services to blind and disabled people, to persons in institutions, to disadvantaged persons, and job-seekers.

We have instituted a statewide program for the conservation of deteriorating research materials.

We have been able to make 314 public libraries accessible to physically disabled persons.

We have been able to increase the computerized records of library holdings from 4 million records in 1979 to 24 million records today.

And most important, we have been able to increase public library use from some 79 million items loaned in 1978 to an anticipated 99 million volumes loaned this year.

Many of these accomplishments might have come about without the White House Conference. But there is no question in my mind that the Conferences speeded these accomplishments because they involved library officials, public officials, library users, and other members of the public in an assessment of what we needed to do to improve library services.

Because of the Conference, county legislators, mayors, State assemblymen and Senators, and other public officials took time from other duties to meet with people concerned about their libraries.

These accomplishments were also made possible because citizens ranging in age from 13 to in their 80s told librarians and library trustees both what they liked and what they did not like about their libraries.

Edwin Newman of NBC News, who was chair of our Governor's Commission on Libraries and who presided at these hearings, said it well ten years ago:

> Libraries are part of our life worth saving, promoting, and improving because we need them, for our instruction, for our pleasure, and for our ability to understand and deal with the questions and problems that pour in on us.

The questions and the problems pour in on us faster in 1987. We need a second White House Conference because the needs for library service keep growing. Our society is changing rapidly because of technology, immigration, health science, values, the economy, and other factors. People in all walks of life face more difficult decisions each year—decisions on education, their jobs, housing, purchases they are going to make, personal and family commitments and community commitments.

If libraries are to cope with the questions people ask, they must have the materials, information resources, staff and buildings ready for today and the 1990s.

The average per capita support of public libraries in our Nation is still less than the cost of the average book on the New York Times best seller list. In fact, if you bought Time Magazine each Monday in the month of March, you spent more for those five magazines than the average library in this country spends in a whole year. And that per capita expenditure of $11.60 must cover far more than magazines, books and journals.

That $11.60 has to cover salaries, heat, light, liability insurance, telephone, computer time, equipment, telecommunications, and all the other costs of running a public educational institution.

We have prisons where one out of four inmates is Hispanic, but the prison lacks books and magazines in Spanish; prisons where adult basic education programs are teaching men to read, but the libraries do not have the books and magazines for them to read.

We have similar or parallel problems in our college libraries and schools of library science. And we have millions of people, young and old, who need the services of libraries but are not using them because they do not know about them.

These are the challenges that we must meet. And citizen participation and a thorough examination of library services and library capacity for the 1980s proved worthwhile and productive. As we approach and prepare for the final decade of this century, we look forward to a second White House Conference which will continue this important endeavor.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator Stafford. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Shubert and response to a question submitted by Senator Pell follow:]

TESTIMONY SUPPORTING SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26 PROPOSING A 1989 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ART, AND HUMANITIES, APRIL 3, 1987 - PRESENTED BY JOSEPH F. SHUBERT, STATE LIBRARIAN AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LIBRARIES, NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Chairman Pell, distinguished members of the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities, good morning. I am Joseph F. Shubert, State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries in New York State. I am grateful to have this opportunity to speak to you in behalf of Senate Joint Resolution 26, authorizing and requesting the President to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

1979 Conference Results

I had the good fortune to participate in both the 1979 White House Conference and in the 1978 New York State Governor's Conference on Libraries. As important, I have had responsibility for seeing that resolutions adopted at those two conferences helped shape library services in New York State. I would like to talk principally about how the New York State Conference, as part of the 1979 White House Conference effort, produced change in New York State. Our 1978 conference resulted in a set of actions over the last nine years to assure library services to all the people of New York State.

These actions included the further development of our library systems program. These systems enable any user of one of our 7,000 libraries to have access to materials in other libraries anywhere in the State. The first resolution of the 1978 conference was endorsement of two bills pending in the Senate and Assembly of the New York State Legislature to increase funding for library systems and to bring school libraries into the statewide network. The Legislature enacted the legislation in September 1978. This action was followed by other major library legislation in 1981, 1984, and 1986. None of these enactments has provided all the resources our libraries need to meet the demands of the people they serve, but they have enabled us to:

- more than double the number of libraries participating in our regional and statewide systems
- bring 264 hospital libraries into regional resource sharing and enable more than half of these libraries to upgrade services in accordance with new standards developed in 1982
- expand outreach services to persons in eight target groups established in law, including blind and physically handicapped people, persons in institutions, disadvantaged persons, and job seekers.
- institute a statewide program for the conservation of deteriorating research materials
- make 314 public libraries accessible to physically handicapped persons for the first time
- increase computerized records of library holdings from 4 million records in 1979 to 24 million records today
- increase public library use from some 79 million items loaned in 1978 to an anticipated 99 million this year

Many of these accomplishments might have come about without the White House Conference. But there is no question in my mind but that the conferences speeded these accomplishments because they involved library officials, public officials, library users, and other members of the public in an assessment of what we needed to do to improve library services.

These accomplishments were made easier because throughout the State, county legislators, mayors, State Assemblymen and Senators, and other public officials took time from their other duties to meet with people concerned about their libraries. These accomplishments were made easier because library users ranging from age 13 to their 80s participated in meetings and discussions throughout the State. They were also made possible because citizens told librarians and library trustees both what they liked and what they didn't like about their libraries.

As you might expect, sharp disagreements surfaced in the course of the White House Conference as discussions turned to priorities, costs, and ways of accomplishing objectives. But as delegates in New York State worked through meetings, caucuses, workshops, and the conference, strong themes emerged in support of free access to library resources and outreach to hundreds of thousands of persons who could benefit from library services.

Edwin Newman of NBC, who was chair of our Governor's Commission on Libraries said it well: "Libraries are a part of our life worth saving, promoting, and improving" because "we need them, for our instruction, for our pleasure and for our ability to understand and deal with the questions and problems that pour in on us".

We Need a Second White House Conference

The questions and problems continue to pour in on us and I thank you for this initiative toward a 1989 White House Conference. We need the conference because the needs for library service keep growing. Our society is changing rapidly because of technology, immigration, health science, values, the economy, and other factors you know so well. People in all walks of life face more difficult decisions each year -- decisions on education, jobs, housing, purchases, and personal and family commitments. If libraries are to cope with the questions people ask, they must have materials, information resources, staff, and buildings ready for today and the 1990's.

Our nation's libraries serve people of all ages and all conditions. Our libraries provide services important to parents and preschool children -- services and experiences that can set the stage for school success and lifelong learning. As science lengthens our life span, reading, thinking, and continued learning are vital parts of the added years. Public library services to people in nursing homes and senior citizen centers help people keep active and interested in their community. Libraries across the country provide research materials and information that fuel creativity, invention, and competitiveness. Libraries provide the materials that help Americans judge the record, make decisions, and exercise their civic responsibilities.

The average per capita support of public libraries in our nation is still less than the cost of the average book on the New York Times best seller list -- and about a third of the annual cost of a subscription to Newsweek. That per capita support ($1[illegible].60 in 1985) must cover far more than books and journals, however: It covers the salaries, heat, light, liability insurance, telephone, computer time, equipment, telecommunications, and all the other costs of running a public educational institution.

As your January 21 statement in the Congressional Record pointed out, seven per cent of the schools in our nation don't have libraries. And many schools with libraries lack professional staff and current materials for teaching and learning. More than a third of the school libraries in the United States lack a telephone -- a basic tool for library resource sharing.

We have medical and special libraries across the country that are not yet members of networks, yet they could both benefit from and contribute to resource sharing.

We have prisons where one out of four inmates is Spanish-speaking but the prison lacks books and magazines in Spanish--and prisons where adult basic education programs are teaching men to read but the libraries lack the materials they need to read.

We have college libraries that have difficulty in maintaining periodical subscriptions as costs go up nine percent each year -- and universities where one out of four books in the stacks is disintegrating.

We have State Library agencies that need microcomputers and additional staff specialists to help develop comprehensive literacy, outreach, children's services. We have State library agencies that are trying to counsel local libraries which have been dependent upon local revenue sharing on finding money to maintain critical services.

And we have schools of library science that cannot provide enough new children's librarians, medical librarians, catalogers, and school librarians. And these same library schools lack the scholarship assistance to attract and hold the bright young people our libraries need.

Finally, and tragically, we have millions of people, young and old, who need the services that public libraries provide, who are not using them because they don't know about them.

So, there are many new challenges to be overcome to maximize the impact of our library services nationwide.

I hope I have been able to convey how the 1979 White House Conference has helped positively shape subsequent Federal, state, and local library legislation and action. The Conference in Washington and the 57 state and territorial conferences which preceded it, of course, affected more than legislation because it brought thousands of citizens into the process. Our State Legislature, for one, appropriated funds in 1977 and 1978 to make sure that we in New York could get maximum impact from the 1979 Conference. Citizen participation in a thorough examination of library services and capacity for the 1980's proved worthwhile and productive. As we approach and prepare for the final decade of this century, we look forward to a second White House Conference which will continue this important endeavor.

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THE NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY
STATE LIBRARIAN AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LIBRARIES

April 10, 1987

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Subcommittee on Education,
  Arts & Humanities
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Room 648
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell: Attention: Sandy Crary

Thank you for the opportunity to testify at the hearing on Senate Joint Resolution 26 last Friday. Enclosed is the response to the question posed to me at the close of the hearing, and a corrected copy of the statement I prepared for the hearing.

I hope the Senate will take early action on the resolution, and that we will soon be able to begin the process leading up to a White House Conference. Thanks much for your encouragement and support.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Shubert

Joseph F. Shubert
State Librarian and Assistant
  Commissioner for Libraries

Enc.

Question:

Do you see the White House Conference process as the best way to bring out issues that would otherwise be difficult for librarians and trustees to bring to public attention. I am thinking of issues like the "brittle books" problem here. Or is there a different and more effective way of doing this?

Response, Joseph F. Shubert

I think the White House Conference process is an important way to bring the brittle books problem to the attention of the public, university presidents, trustees, and officials ultimately responsible for our libraries. That alert is being sounded in many ways now and needs more attention. The conference process can help assure that deterioration of research materials, impediments to public access, information for disadvantaged persons, the incredible lack of librarians in our schools, the lack of foreign language materials and staff in our public libraries, censorship attempts, and other issues can be brought into focus. These issues are part of a whole, and the conference process can help us see their relationships and develop an integrated and effective way of dealing with them so that the libraries of our country can provide the services people need.

Senator STAFFORD. We now turn to the last witness this morning. Mr. Johnson, I daresay the weather here may remind you of home—or do you have better weather out there than we do here?

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman, we had this exact same weather, only colder, when I was there. It is now 65 degrees in Cheyenne, and I am here. [Laughter.]

Senator STAFFORD. We were hoping, Mr. Johnson, that you would have taken more of the moisture out of the air while it was in Wyoming.

Mr. JOHNSON. We tried, Mr. Chairman. There has been a snowstorm every other day since the first day of spring.

Senator STAFFORD. We would be very glad to hear from you.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman, I am Wayne Johnson, and I am the State Librarian of Wyoming. In this capacity, I served with the National Commission on Libraries on the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Preliminary Design Group.

I have here, if the Committee would like it, two copies of their initial report.

Senator STAFFORD. We will make that a part of the record.

Mr. JOHNSON. The report of this committee was submitted before the House, but I would hope that the Senate would also like it.

I appreciate being asked to testify before Congress. Being from Wyoming, this will probably be the only opportunity in my lifetime.

To begin Conference planning even before you have passed Senate Joint Resolution 26, the National Commission did start a Preliminary Design Group. The members were appointed by the President of COSLA, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies; WHCLIST, from whom you have heard from; and NCLIS, from whom you have heard. I was appointed by the President of COSLA because I, personally, and the librarians in the State of Wyoming were very bitter about the 1979 White House Conference. We were very bitter about the regulations concerning a State conference, and in the end, we were very bitter about many of the results of the national Conference. So I was appointed to try to assuage much of this, to represent the people who feel the same as I do.

I came here to testify today on the Preliminary Design Group's report, on the basic provisions of it. Unfortunately, everybody else has been reporting on that also.

I would very much concur with Patty Klinck's suggestion that the time line be pushed back. I was a brand new, drippy, wet-behind-the-ears State Librarian in 1978 and 1979 and was forced to hold all my local hearings in Wyoming in the winter. The stories that came from those hearings that were phenomenal. So I believe the future time lines being reasonable.

I support the three overall themes for the national Conference. If anybody ever reads my testimony, you will see that especially in the area of literacy, I thought Wyoming had no illiterates, and then I found one applying for a job at the library. Literally, a close friend of his filled out the application form.

In reference to increased productivity in the U.S.—I used to drive Subarus. I have become bitter enough there that I drive Oldsmobiles and Fords now, because of my unhappiness with the world trade deficit.

In the area of information for democracy, of course, I feel that those who are ruled need the information probably more than the rulers, to make sure that they are fairly ruled.

I would just like to finish with some philosophy that we have in the Rocky Mountain area, especially in the area of libraries. There are local, State, multistate regional and national responsibilities in library and information services. There are also local responsibilities for funding for libraries from the local, State and national levels.

I would expect the White House Conference and the pre-conferences to recognize the separateness of them, the appropriateness of them.

There has been much talk about new technologies which soon become old. We must not fall in line with them exclusion of the old methods. The old methods must be kept. I know, as an old reference librarian, that our users do not care what the means are; they want results. They want the information; they want what they need; and, they do not really want us to tell them how we obtained it. They are not infatuated with the toys; they are infatuated with the results.

This Nation is build on federalism. Wyoming has its own form of it. Our county library systems, 23 of them, each have their own language. I can further say each State in our nation has its own language, and each State is unique, each State is individual, each State does things its own way. This must be recognized in the national Conference,if we have it, and then the Federal wrap-up.

I am done with my testimony, even though the red light is not on yet, so thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Johnson and additional material supplied for the record follow:]

STATEMENT OF WAYNE H. JOHNSON

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND HUMANITIES SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

April 3, 1987

My name is Wayne Johnson. I am the State Librarian of Wyoming. In this capacity, I served with the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) on the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Preliminary Design Group. The report of this Committee was submitted in testimony before the House Postsecondary Education Sub-Committee in April of 1986 and accompanies this testimony. I appreciate being asked to testify before a Congressional Committee. Too often those of us from states small in size or population are overlooked.

Senate Joint Resolution 26 calls for a 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services and states that: "the purpose of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services shall be to develop recommendations for the further improvement of the library and information services of the nation and their use by the public in accordance with the findings set forth in the preamble to this Joint Resolution." In introducing the Joint Resolution, Senator Pell has called for grass roots involvement by the American public including library users, civic leaders, lawmakers, librarians, and others in identifying unmet library services needs, examining library and information service issues, and developing recommendations for further library and information services.

To begin conference planning, Eleanor Hashim, then Chair of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science created the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Preliminary Design Group. Members of this Group were appointed by the President of the Chief Officer's of State Library Agencies (COSLA), the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Task Force (WHCLIST), and the Chairman of NCLIS. The Preliminary Design Group's report was endorsed unanimously by NCLIS at its meeting on December 2, 1985.

The President of COSLA appointed me as State Librarian of Wyoming to the Design Group for specific reasons. The 1979 White House Conference rules and regulations promulgated by the Washington leadership for state conferences at that time did not fit the needs of our State. Those regulations concerning the Conference itself in Washington, D.C., were equally inflexible for Wyoming's needs. COSLA wanted to make sure that those states whose needs were not met by the 1979 White House Conference process were represented during the preliminary design of the second Conference Process.

The Preliminary Design Group report is based on the provisions in Senate Joint Resolution 26. Suggestions are given for the kinds of appointments to be made to the White House Conference Advisory Committee by the President, the President Protem of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chairman of NCLIS. This group will administer the pre-conferences and conference. A planning structure is proposed to elicit the participation of other federal agencies and specialists in the library and information professions and related fields. A planning timetable is included, listing tasks to be accomplished up to and after the White House Conference. This planning timetable will have to be updated since the Senate Joint Resolution introduced in the 99th Congress was not passed and the timetable had been based on passage during that Congress.

The pending legislation and Preliminary Design Group Report approach the Conference as a process involving persons from every state, territory and Indian Nation in the discussion of issues relating to library and information services at local, state, multi-state regional and federal levels. The process can be viewed as a continuum with local activities building up to state or regional activities which lead in turn to the national conference. After the national conference, the results should be reported back to regional, state and local participants for possible action. The entire process should result in the identification of user's needs, and those needs serve as the basis for realistic planning for library and informational services as the 21st century approaches.

The roles and responsibilities in library and information service at the local, state, regional, and national levels will probably be different. Each level should be examined as to whether or not the roles need to be reported to the higher levels or the lower levels. There need not be duplication of the roles and the responsibilities at these various levels. Some services can be best provided at the state level, some at the federal.

The Preliminary Design Group recommended that the pending legislation call for appropriate state and/or multi-state activities. Your Senate Joint Resolution recognizes this request - it is not necessary that each state be required to hold a statewide conference. In some areas population or geographical closeness should allow multi-state regional conferences prior to the national conference. The Senate is commended for its recognition of the need of flexibility in planning at the local, state and regional levels. The White House Conference process must be viewed as a reflection of the federal system in which major decisions are made at all levels of government and in which inter-governmental cooperation is essential.

The Preliminary Design Group worked diligently to identify themes for the White House Conference that would applicable at the local, statewide, multi-state regional, and national levels. Three over arching themes are proposed for the White House Conference: One, Library and Information Services for Productivity; two, Library and Information Services for Literacy; and three, Library and Information Services for Democracy. These themes would be the focus of the national conference, and would be discussed, along with other local and state issues, in the pre-White House Conference activities. Obviously the local, statewide or regional levels would develop additional themes for examination at each conference.

Increased productivity is seen as an essential to the economic vitality of our nation, our advantage in world markets, and the employment of our people. Many articles in the national media in the past years have focused on the decreasing productivity in United States industries compared to other countries. Research and development depends upon access to information; and libraries are information agencies in this information society. They are essential to the economic well being of our nation. Quality libraries are needed by industries, business, and government as they deal with the need to increase productivity and adapt to new technology. Libraries also offer an historic avenue for individual advancement, tools for people to improve their knowledge and skills, and the means for increased social and economic mobility for poor and disadvantaged persons.

The White House Conference must consider how libraries can provide business and industry with improved access to information. With the majority of workers in the United States employed by small business, emphasis must be on serving this clientele. Libraries must and can help American business acquire a larger share of the international market so that this country no longer has a trade deficit. Libraries must inform industries, economists, business consultants, and others about the resources and services available. Libraries can insure access to new information technology. Libraries also can make information available through networks that link public, academic, school, and corporate libraries holding all of the information of North America. Libraries must show how to access information to develop a more efficient and productive workforce. Recommendations are needed on these and other productivity issues.

Illiteracy in America has been identified as a national crisis. It is estimated that twenty-seven million persons, or one-fifth of the adult population, are unable to read beyond a fifth grade level. Many of these people are unable to fill out a job applications, write checks, address envelopes, read safety notices, or read instructions on a can. There is a high correlation between illiteracy and poverty, between illiteracy and unemployment, and between illiteracy and crime.

I was questioning, at one time, whether illiteracy was a problem in Wyoming. My eyes were opened when I went to the State Personnel Office. A gentleman was there with a friend. This friend was reading the employment application and then writing down the answers for the gentleman who was applying for a job. That experience opened my eyes. After investigation on a statewide basis, we do know that illiteracy is a grave problem in Wyoming as well as in the rest of United States.

Alliance for Excellence the 1984 U.S. Department of Education Report, calls on "libraries to become active in adult literacy education programs at local, state, and national levels". Libraries nationwide are acquiring special materials for adult learners, and helping potential students and volunteers get involved through local library programs. The White House Conference will need to consider how libraries can support formal education for literacy more effectively; how libraries can assist greater numbers of self-learners and their volunteer tutors; how libraries can help persons who need to learn the English language; how libraries can use new technology to serve learners; and most important, how libraries can best work with other agencies and the private sector to improve literacy services. Libraries are able to support life long learning for people of all ages, ambitions, and abilities. These services should be from literacy training through the highest of technical research.

The third theme is library information in a democracy. Libraries must play a vital role in our democratic society. This society depends upon the informed participation of its citizens. Information is not only needed by but also the right of every citizen as well as elected and appointed officials at all levels. We rely on information to make decisions affecting our society.

The White House Conference will need to consider how libraries can serve as effective information centers to all citizens. Libraries can provide elected and appointed officials, and their staffs with improved access to needed information. Libraries can best use the modern technology to acquire, organize, and furnish information needed by government decision makers as well as the public. Libraries also can receive and make available the information produced by all levels of government. This will insure that access to this type of information is not restricted only to those who can afford to pay for it or who are part of government. Other issues will be identified in the Conference process to address this role of library and information services for domocracy.

CONCLUSION:

The White House Conference process with local, state, multi-state regional and the national White House Conference activities will involve several hundred thousand Americans. These people will address critical issues relating to library and information services with emphases on productivity, literacy, and information for democracy. Each level of government has a role that can best be served by them. Each level should be assigned responsibilities according to what services it can provide best. The result of the process will assist appropriate authorities, policy makers, planners and service providers in taking the steps needed to strengthen the provision of library and information services for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

TESTIMONY OF FREDERICK BURKHARDT

BEFORE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND HUMANITIES

ON THE PROPOSED 1989

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

APRIL 3, 1987

Frederick Burkhardt
P.O. Box 1067
Bennington, Vermont 05201

March 30, 1987

The Honorable Claiborne Pell, Chairman
Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities
United States Senate
Wasgington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

I regret that other commitments prevent my appearing before your subcommittee hearing on the proposed White House Conference on Libraries and Information Science in 1989.

I most earnestly support the holding of such a conference, as a follow-up of the White House Conference of 1979. That event galvanized the attention of the public to the needs and opportunities facing us as we enter a new era of technological revolution in information services. The 1979 conference was a great success. Over 100,000 people in 57 states and territories participated. Particular pains were taken to bring to the meeting a large number of the lay public to promote their understanding of library and information problems and information problems and to engage them in active participation in working toward solutions on the state and local level. Sixty-four resolutions of national significance were passed by the participants after a week of deliberation, and 55 of them have been acted upon. Some of them are still being implemented. In short, the 1979 White House Conference was not just a talk fest. Its Report was not put on the shelf and forgotten, but provided an agenda for concrete action on the community level. It was not simply a list of demands for money, but a statement of fundamental policies and guidance.

Ten years is a long time in the information world. Many new developments have taken place in data-processing and in the capacity to communicate and distribute knowledge. Yet many of these developments have yet to be absorbed and utilized to their fullest potential. The problems of illiteracy and low productivity are still with us. Quality control and the restoration of the country's competitive position in world trade are urgent problems confronting us in the decade ahead. The quality of education in this country has not improved as we might have expected from the new tools and techniques that are now available to teachers and learners. These are problems which the 1989 White House Conference will address, and, as the 1979 Conference demonstrated, will arrive at some guidelines for future action.

Literacy, productivity and the strengthening of our democatic society through education are big problems and deserving of the best efforts of those involved in the production and dissemination of knowledge and information. There is another problem to which the Conference could make a contribution, a problem which arises from the great advance in information production itself. In the 17th Century, Isaac Newton spoke of his discoveries as pebbles on the shore of "the great ocean of truth undiscovered". That ocean still is there, but we are now also confronted with a great ocean of truth discovered. How to harness the information explosion now in progress, how to get the knowledge that has been discovered into manageable form, how to get it applied to the problems it can solve, and to the people who could solve them, -- that is a subject worthy of the attention of a national conference on libraries and information sciences. Today, even the most specialized researchers find it difficult to keep up with advances in their own field in this country, let alone in other countries and languages. Storage and retrieval is relatively efficient within highly restricted fields, but very inadequate in relating data to a larger context which involves cross- or inter-disciplinary communication. An essential next stage in the information revolution is progress in techniques of multi-level organization, transfer, and synthesis of knowledge.

Since 1979 there has been a steady erosion of support for libraries while their costs have steadily increased. The 1989 Conference will focus the attention of appropriating authorities, policy makers, planners and providers of information service on the importance of giving a high priority to library and information sciences because they are the foundation on which the education of the future will be built. In no other way can a national forum and perspective be provided to bring home the fact that the support of libraries and information services by the public and private sector is an investment that will more than pay for itself in the years to come.

The present budget crisis is severe, and the expenditure of 5 to 7 million dollars for a White House Conference must be carefully examined and justified. The planning for 1989 seems to me to have been thorough and prudent. The amount of money requested is less than half of what the appropriation for the 1979 Conference would be today. Its objectives are far-sighted. I am confident that Congress, which has given solid support to library programs in the past, will not fail to make this investment in the future of those programs and of information science in general.

Last fall, in discussion with my fellow citizens in Vermont, I heard doubt expressed by some of them about two aspects of the plans for the Conference: it called for mandatory state-run conferences, and it lacked a program to solicit private-sector funds to help pay for the national conference. The present legislation now contains provisions that respond to these doubts. State run conferences are optional, and private-sector funds will be raised.

I had the honor to serve as the first Chairman of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Sciences and in that capacity was involved in the planning of the 1979 White House Conference. It was one of the most important achievements of the Commission. It was the first step in nation-wide coordinated thinking about the country's information and library needs and potentialities. The second White House Conference in 1989 will be even more important in consolidating the gains made and in planning for the next decade. I strongly urge your Committee to give it full support.

Sincerely,

Frederick Burkhardt

Frederick Burkhardt
Chairman Emeritus, National Commission on Libraries and Information Sciences.

TESTIMONY OF KENNETH Y. TOMLINSON
BEFORE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND HUMANITIES
ON THE PROPOSED 1989
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

APRIL 3, 1987

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I regret that I cannot appear before you in person today to testify on behalf of the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Only a speech commitment of long standing could prevent me from being with you in Washington for this important hearing. I thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony for the record.

The first White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1979 had the largest attendance of any White House Conference in history: 3,600 participants, including 806 voting delegates and alternates, representing more than 100,000 people who participated in state and territorial preconferences. This impressive level of participation, dedication, and activity resulted in 64 resolutions, 55 of which have since been implemented in whole or in part through the hard work of dedicated volunteers and professionals. At first glance, it may seem that the 1979 Conference set in motion an agenda that could keep us busy for years to come.

Since I became the fourth Chairman of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science last November, I have heard constant expressions of enthusiasm and support for a second White House Conference in 1989. I have also heard voices in the library community asking, "How in this time of Gramm-Rudman Hollings can we finance another White House Conference? "Why spend taxpayers' money to transport people to Washington for another meeting when many libraries are struggling to maintain their basic services?" "Why not stay home and earmark the money for books, equipment, and services instead?" These are legitimate questions and we should address them.

"Why another White House Conference?" One of the best arguments I have heard centers around the results of the 1979 Conference. There was a tremendous increase in the public awareness of libraries and their impact on citizens and the nation. What Chairman Emeritus Charles Benton aptly termed the "White House Conference Process" fosters awareness of critical issues through a grass roots assessment of public needs, and then transfers this understanding upward to the highest levels of our government. I quote from an article in Library Journal that appeared in January 1980, just after the first White House Conference: "Everyone who attended the Conference now knows that the White House and the Congress truly want guidance. They also know that the guidance has to come from voters, voters who are made aware by their fellow citizens of the pressing needs of our nation in the information arena."

The White House Conference Process stimulates the direct involvement of library and information service providers, users of these services, library advocates, and elected officials to focus national attention on the importance and problems of our libraries. The dynamic process--before, during, and after a White House Conference--results in renewed public appreciation and support as well as a realignment of library services with changing needs. Since 1980, summary reports from state library agencies, the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce, and Friends of Libraries U.S.A. document increases in state and local appropriations for libraries, establishment of new grant programs, formation of hundreds of new library advocacy groups, and many other significant actions to help libraries continue to provide their essential services. The second White House Conference will be a means of renewing and intensifying that support for libraries of every kind, at every level.

Ten years after the first White House Conference we face a need for a revised agenda. I read recently that the entire amount of information available in Western Society has again doubled since 1970. Technological changes--especially in the storage and retrieval of information--have greatly accelerated since the 1970s, and their impact is more immediate in our homes, businesses, and governments. In short, the role of information in our society is more crucial than ever before--in health, business, technology, education. With the mainstay of support for the providers of that knowledge--our libraries--steadily shifting to the state and local levels, and even to the private sector, a reassessment of the need for and basis of that support is urgent.

The Commission has been actively supporting plans for a second White House Conference for several years. At its July 1984 meeting, NCLIS adopted a resolution to request commitment by the President and Congress to a national conference on library and information services. This resolution also expressed the Commission's intent to designate a Preliminary Conference Design Group to initiate planning for the next White House Conference. Other witnesses at today's hearing have described to you the magnificent job this Design Group did in outlining the themes and procedures for such a conference. After gratefully accepting the Preliminary Conference Design Group's report in December 1985, the Commission distributed the report nationwide and actively brought it to the attention of the library/information community for review and comment. The Commission has also been vocal in support of the proposed legislation authorizing the Conference. A wide range of library related organization including the American Library Association, WHCLIST, the Special Libraries Association, as well as other national library and information service organizations have passed resolutions of support and joined in planning for the Conference.

Now it is time to come up with detailed plans, financial projections and budgetary support that will assure that this conference will not come at the expense of traditional library support. The keyword is planning.

WHCLIST
1700 E. Las Olas Blvd. • Suite 100 • Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

RECEIVED
APR 03 1987

April 1, 1987

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Senate Arts, Education and Humanities
 Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

Enclosed is a resolution in support of the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services passed March 1, 1987 by the Board of Directors of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology.

As many interested groups have done, the AECT has named a liaison to WHCLIST to receive information about the future conference. It is also planning a program at the next AECT Convention in January 1988.

I might add that the Florida Library Association has a program to hear from librarians, trustees and Friends of the Library on the shape of Florida's pre-White House Conference project, which will take place on May 8, 1987.

Sincerely,

Barbara

Barbara Cooper
WHCLIST Past Chair

White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce

aect *Association for Educational Communications & Technology*
1126 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • (202) 466-4780

RESOLUTION

in support of
White House Conference on Library and Information Services II

Passed March 1, 1987
AECT Board of Directors
Atlanta, Georgia

WHEREAS the First White House Conference on Library and Information Services served to broaden public awareness of and support for library and information services, and

WHEREAS it had a strong positive influence on federal support for library resource sharing and networking, and

WHEREAS it has resulted in numerous forms of increased state and local support for libraries, and

WHEREAS many issues pertaining to equity of information access, literacy and productivity for democracy remain unaddressed,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Association for Educational Communications & Technology supports the sponsorship of a Second White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

Annual Convention and COMMTEX International Exposition/Atlanta/Georgia/February 25-March 1/1987

Medical Library Association, Inc.

Suite 3208
919 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611
(312) 266-2456

April 2, 1987

Senator Claiborne Pell
Subcommittee on Education, Art and Humanities in Support
of Senate Joint Resolution 26--White House Conference on
Library and Information Services 1989
335 Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

The enclosed resolution, which the Medical Library Association issued early in 1987, is our statement of support of the proposed 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services. In anticipation of the hearings concerning the fate of the Conference, scheduled for April 3, 1987, I am submitting a copy of the statement for the Record.

Sincerely,

Raymond A. Palmer

Raymond A. Palmer
Executive Director

RAP/ldm

cc: Eileen Cooke

Enclosure

EDO 3.2

Medical Library Association, Inc.

Suite 3208
919 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611
(312) 266-2456

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION ON PROPOSED WHITE HOUSE LIBRARY CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, The 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services served as a focal point for planning library and information services for the succeeding decade; and

WHEREAS, It is extremely important that attention be given now to determining the future direction for library and information services; and

WHEREAS, The legislation introduced by Senator Claiborne Pell and Representative William Ford in April 1985 supporting a White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1989 received extensive bipartisan support; and

WHEREAS, The Ninety Ninth Congress adjourned before action could be taken on this proposed legislation; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Medical Library Association express its deep appreciation to Senator Pell and Congressman Ford for their support of a 1989 White House Conference; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Medical Library Association support reintroduction of the appropriate legislative measures to the One Hundredth Congress; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Medical Library Association urge Senators and Representatives to join as co-sponsors of this legislation and support its passage in both Houses of Congress.

January 1987

Coalition
Of
Library
Advocates

APR 02 1987

95 Davis Street
Providence, RI 02908
March 29, 1987

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
325 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

As we approach National Library Week, April 5-11, it is a pleasure to write and thank you for your cosponsorship of SJ Res 26. The authorization of a second White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services would contribute to an increase in responsiveness of libraries to public needs as well as an increased awareness of libraries, a tremendous national resource.

It is particularly important in this year designated as the "Year of the Reader" both nationally and in Rhode Island that we further the process begun with the first White House Conference in 1979. The existence of groups such as COLA are testimony to the efficacy of the earlier conference.

COLA is particularly proud to have your support and that of Rhode Island's three other Congressmen in cosponsorship of SJ Res 26 and HJ Res 90. We thank you so much for your continued support of library legislation. It is most gratifying to those of us involved in working with and for libraries in behalf of the citizens of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Rae B. Cousins

Rae B. Cousins
Secretary

NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE PROMOTION OF HISTORY

Administrative Offices: 400 A STREET SE
WASHINGTON, DC 20003/(202) 544-2422

DR. PAGE PUTNAM MILLER
Director

MEMBERS
American Historical Association
Organization of American Historians
Society of American Archivists
Western History Association
Phi Alpha Theta
American Association for State and Local History
Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations
Society for History Education
Southern Historical Association
American Bibliographical Center, Clio, Inc
Coordinating Committee on Women in the Historical Profession Conference Group on Women's History
History of Science Society
Society for the History of Technology
Berkshire Conference of Women Historians
Conference on Peace Research in History
Immigration History Society
Northern Virginia Association of Historians
Conference Group for Central European History
Women Historians of the Midwest
Georgia Association of Historians
Polish American Historical Association
Agricultural History Society
American Library Association Library History Round Table
Western Association of Women Historians
National Federation of State Humanities Councils
Society for History in the Federal Government
National Council on Public History
National Archives Assembly
American Association for the History of Medicine
Association for Documentary Editing
Midwest Archives Conference
American Military Institute
National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic
Federation of Genealogical Societies
Oral History Association
Mid Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

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Montana
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New Jersey
New Mexico
North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Wisconsin

March 31, 1987

Senator Claiborne Pell
Chairman, Subcommittee on Education, Arts,
and Humanities
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell,

I am writing on behalf of the forty-four member organizations of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History to express support for S. J. Res. 26 and to commend you for introducing this legislation and for scheduling hearings to discuss the need for a 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

I request that the following statement be added to the official April 3 hearing record on S. J. Res. 26:

The member organizations of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History support S. J. Res. 26 because it is time once again to focus national attention on the critical issues affecting library and information services. A 1985 review of progress made toward implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services found that substantial progress had been made toward implementation of 55 of the 64 resolutions adopted. This provides clear evidence that the first White House Conference on Libraries served as a useful mechanism for addressing basic library issues and problems. There is an urgent need now to establish national information goals and priorities for the next decade.

Libraries provide essential research and information services necessary for an informed citizenry but particularly vital to the work of scholars. Thus we wish to express great appreciation to Senator Pell and members of the Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities who have placed a high commitment on supporting library services in this country.

Sincerely,

Page Putnam Miller

Page Putnam Miller, Phd
Director

AMERICAN LIBRARY TRUSTEE ASSOCIATION
A DIVISION OF THE
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
50 EAST HURON STREET · CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611 · (312) 944-6780

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MAR 25 1987

March 20, 1987

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

We are the national organization representing library trustees throughout the Nation. Our members worked for the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services and many of us participated in the state pre-conferences as well as the White House Conference.

We support Senate Joint Resolution 26, authorizing and requesting the President to call a second conference, as resolved by the delegates in 1979. We commend the Senate for holding a hearing on April 3 and will support all efforts to make the conference a success.

Information about your introduction of this desirable legislation has been included in our national newsletter, just mailed.

Sincerely,

Kay Vowvalidis

Kay Vowvalidis
President

100 Deer Path Road
Ozark AL 36360

Special Libraries Association
1700 Eighteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
202/234-4700

April 21, 1987

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Arts,
Education and Humanities
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

The Special Libraries Association is pleased to have this opportunity to go on record in support of legislation which would authorize a White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services, WHCLIS. During our Annual Conference in Boston last June, the SLA Board of Directors unamimously approved the attached resolution expressing support for a White House Conference.

SLA is an international organization of more than 12,500 librarians, information managers, and brokers. Special libraries serve industry, business, research, educational and technical agencies, government, special departments of public and university libraries, newspapers, museums and other organizations both in for-profit and not-for-profit sectors, requiring specialized information. The Association and its members are concerned with the advancement and improvement of communications and the dissemination and ultimate use of information and knowledge for the general welfare of all users.

As you can see, our membership is quite diverse with the for-profit sector well represented by SLA. According to a recent survey conducted by the Association, nearly 50 percent of our members are in corporate settings.

We believe it is imperative that a second White House Conference, WHCLIS II, encompass all segments of the library and information communities and that the important role played by special librarians and for-profit libraries be recognized while planning this Conference.

The Association and its members will offer any assistance in making a second White House Conference a reality.

Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the work you and your staff have done in convening a hearing on WHCLIS II.

Sincerely,

David Bender

David R. Bender, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Enclosure

DRB/alh

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES: SLA RESOLUTION

Whereas: Senate Joint Resolution 112 and House Joint Resolution 244 request the President to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held not later than 1989;

Whereas: The Special Libraries Association endorses the basic premises of the Resolution:

> "Whereas access to information and ideas is indispensable to the development of human potential, the advancement of civilization, and the continuance of enlightened self-government;
>
> Whereas the preservation and the dissemination of information and ideas are the primary purpose and function of the library and information services;
>
> Whereas the economic vitality of the United States in a global economy and the productivity of the work force of the Nation rest on access to information in the postindustrial information age;"

Whereas: Libraries in the for-profit sector form a vital segment of the firmament of libraries and contribute to the accomplishment of those fundamental principles;

Whereas: In this competitive technological era, access to information will be a critical factor for success in maintaining a democratic and economically sound society;

Whereas: The Special Libraries Association constituency represents a broad spectrum of subject resources and an experienced cadre of library and information specialists;

Whereas: The Association is committed to promote and improve the communication, dissemination and use of information and knowledge for the benefit of the citizenry and the country;

Resolved: The Association will join in the support of the Congressional Resolutions;

Resolved: The Association and its members will actively participate in the planning and conduct of a National Conference on Libraries and Information Services-1989.

Adopted by the Board of Directors
Special Libraries Association
Boston, Massachusetts
June 6, 1986

NAD
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF
301-587-1788
814 THAYER AVENUE
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20910

REPLY TO:
DR. T. ALAN HURWITZ
NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF
ONE LOMB MEMORIAL DRIVE
ROCHESTER, NY 14623

April 1, 1987

RECEIVED
APR 14 1987

Senator Clairborne Pell
Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

As chairperson of the legislative committee of the National Association of the Deaf, I am writing to you to urge your support the bill re the White House Conference on Library and Information Services - Bill #26 in the Senate

The National Association of the Deaf and the nation's deaf community are in full support of this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,
T. Alan Hurwitz
T. Alan Hurwitz, E.D.
Chairperson
NAD Legislative Committee
Past President of NAD

nkm

cc: Sen. D'Amato
Sen. Moynihan
Gary Olsen
Larry Newman

APR 20 1987

Association of American Publishers, Inc.

2005 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone 202 232-3335

Nicholas A. Veliotes
President

April 6, 1987

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Subcommittee on Education, Arts and the Humanities
Committee on Labor and Human Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Association of American Publishers supports Senate Joint Resolution 26, requesting the President to convene a Second White House Conference on Library and Information Services. We are aware of your leadership in making the First Conference in 1979 a reality, and applaud your current efforts to convene a Second Conference.

The First White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services, which was held in Washington in November 1979, brought together some 900 delegates from across the U.S. to discuss the nation's library and information needs and the best ways to meet them. AAP, the major voice of U.S. book publishing, was one of the information industry organizations involved in the planning, and one of our staff members served as a delegate to the Conference.

From that Conference came a heightened awareness of the importance of libraries as repositories and disseminators of information. The 1979 Conference gave currency to what many of us believed - that innovative library and information services make an invaluable contribution to the cultural and economic life of our nation. The First Conference was successful in setting national goals and priorities for library and information services. A Second Conference can explore ways to focus library and information service resources to enhance productivity, fight illiteracy, and support that essential component of a democratic society, an informed electorate.

American publishers share the concern of library and information professionals over the erosion of federal support for library services while the need for these services grows exponentially. This year, designated by Act of Congress and Presidential Proclamation as "The Year of the Reader," is a time for "restoring reading to a place of preeminence in our personal lives and the life of our Nation." Congressional action to achieve a Second White House Conference on Library and Information Services would be very much in keeping with this goal.

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Veliotes
Nicholas A. Veliotes

Special Libraries Association

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

April 23, 1987

The Honorable Claiborne Pell, Chairman
Sub-Committee on Arts, Education and Humanities
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell,

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Special Libraries Association appreciates the opportunity to support S.J. Res. 26 authorizing a White House Conference on Libraries and Information Sciences (WHCLIS).

It is our understanding that on April 3, 1987, your Sub-Committee on Arts, Education and Humanities held a hearing on this Legislation. Since the last WHCLIS Conference was held in 1979, it is hoped that authorization for a 1989 WHCLIS Conference will be endorsed by your Sub-Committee. These Conferences are essential to the advancement of Libraries and the dissemination of information to the American public.

We would appreciate any help that you could give to S.J. Res. 26 in the 100th Congressional Session.

Sincerely,

Ann A. Lerew
Government Relations Chairman
Rocky Mountain Chapter, Special Libraries Association (SLA)

women's city club
of new york, inc. 25 WEST 45TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036 (212) 869-2929

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May 28, 1987

RECEIVED
JUN 01 1987

Hon. Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Women's City Club of New York, a resolution supporting the passage of legislation (S.J. Res. 26 and H.J. Res. 90) was passed. We thank you for reintroducing the bill which authorizes a second White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held no later than 1989.

The three proposed overarching themes - library and information services for productivity, for literacy and for democrary - will serve as pivotal topics for provocative discussion and deliberation. Fully realizing that libraries are bastions of our culture and recorded history, participants (lay and professionals) can use the Conference as a forum to examine how libraries contribute to a literate society. Literacy is vital to the welfare of a democracy and to the fulfillment of its citizens.

The search for knowledge is at the heart of the human condition, for the expansion of knowledge is central to material progress, social change and the shaping of intellectual attitudes and concepts. All citizens have been the beneficiaries of the 1979 conference, which focused attention on the critical issues affecting library and information services, led to the formation of statewide Friends of Libraries organizations and increased State appropriations.

In the interest of our country and its citizens, we strongly support the call for a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held no later than 1989.

We respectfully request that this letter become a part of the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Lusskin
Phyllis Lusskin
President

Margaret B. Howard
Margaret B. Howard, Chair
Education Committee

PL/MBH/epk

Senator STAFFORD. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Johnson.

I served for quite a while with both of your Senators, especially with Alan Simpson, who has been on the same Committee I have been on for the last several years, and I have at times wondered what there is about Wyoming that produced a rather unique character like Alan Simpson, and I think it has produced more than one unique character.

I admire the ability of people from Wyoming to express their views and do so in a pithy way. So we doubly appreciate your coming here to join us this morning, as we do you, Mr. Shubert, and you, Patty Klinck.

Again, I am going to reserve to the Committee, if there is no objection, the right to submit questions in writing to you, if other Members who cannot be here this morning and the Chairman wish to do so.

You have my gratitude for joining us this morning as we deliberate on Senate J. Res. 26.

Thank you very much.

We have made it just in the nick of time. The next roll call has started. So the Committee will stand adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:15 p.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]

○